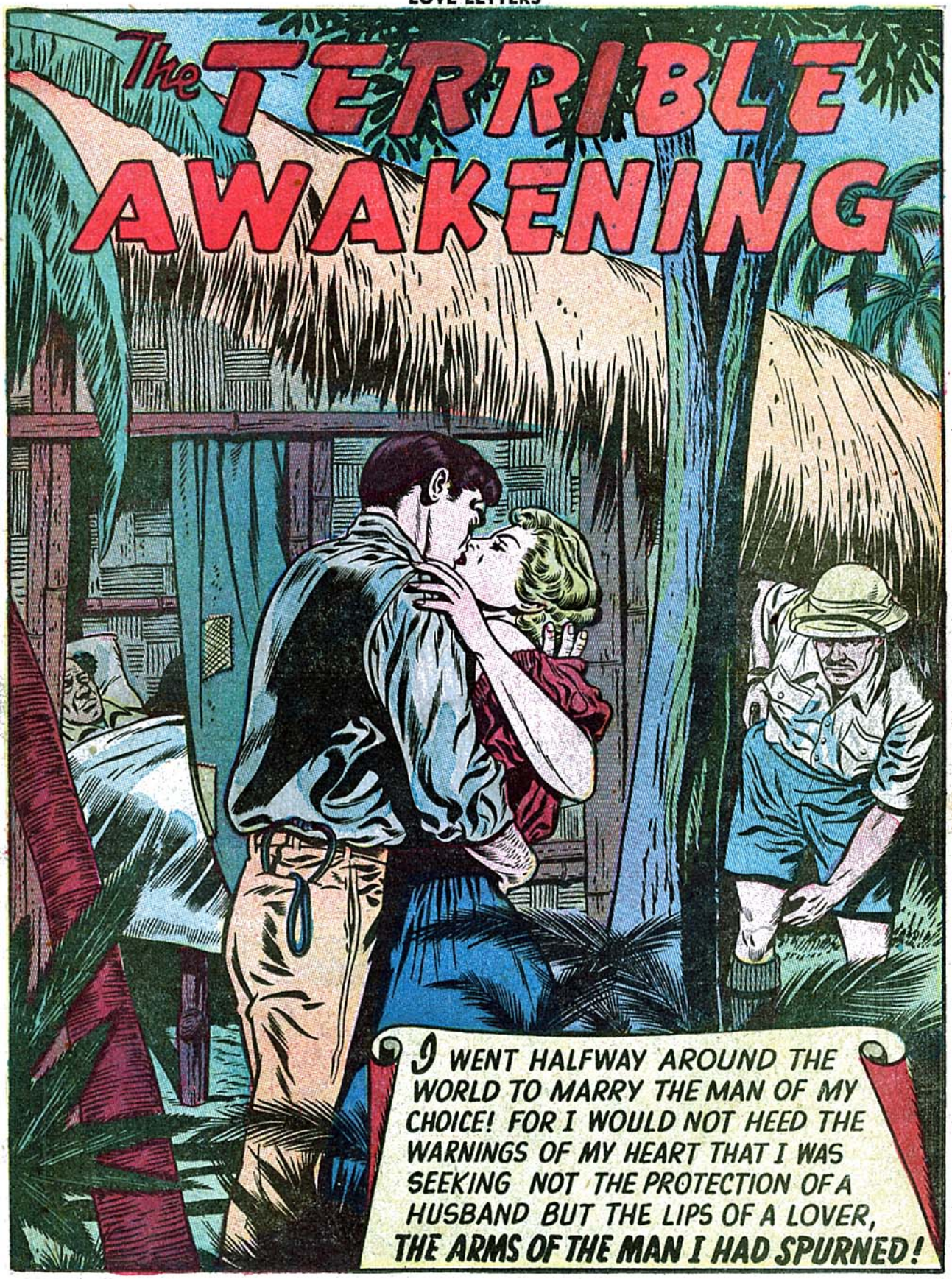
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The TERRIBLE AWAKENING
I WENT HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO MARRY THE MAN OF MY CHOICE! FOR I WOULD NOT HEED THE WARNINGS OF MY HEART THAT I WAS SEEKING NOT THE PROTECTION OF A HUSBAND BUT THE LIPS OF A LOVER, THE ARMS OF THE MAN I HAD SPURNED!

I REMEMBER HOW LUCKY I THOUGHT MYSELF WHEN I FIRST BEGAN TO WORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPICE COMPANY...













YES, I NEEDED TIME... FOR THERE WAS GREG SAWYER TO CONSIDER! GREG WAS THE YOUNG DOCTOR WHO SPENT TWO HOURS EACH DAY AS COMPANY PHYSICIAN IN THE INFIRMARY!





DID MY HEART BEAT A LITTLE FASTER WHEN GREG TOOK MY HAND OR WAS THAT MY IMAGINATION?



LET'S DRIVE FOR A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE WE EAT! I NEED SOME PRIVACY FOR WHAT I WANT TO SAY!

ALL RIGHT, GREG, BUT REMEMBER I'M ONLY A SECRETARY WITH ONE HOUR FOR LUNCH!

MARCY, DARLING, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! I ADORE YOU! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME!

GREG, YOU'VE NEVER EVEN MENTIONED MARRIAGE BEFORE! THIS IS SO SUDDEN!

I KNOW! THAT WAS BECAUSE I WASN'T SURE WHICH BRANCH OF MEDICINE I WAS GOING TO MAKE MY LIFE WORK! NOW I KNOW AND I WANT YOU TO SHARE IT!

GREG, IT SOUNDS MARVELOUS...!

GREG'S LIPS ON MINE CUT OFF WHATEVER I WAS GOING TO SAY! I CLUNG TO HIM, EAGERLY, HUNGRILY, RETURNING HIS KISSES WITH AN ARDOR I HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE!



MARCY, I THINK YOU'VE GIVEN ME YOUR ANSWER! LIFE MAY NOT BE TOO EASY AT FIRST BUT I'LL TRY TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, DARLING!

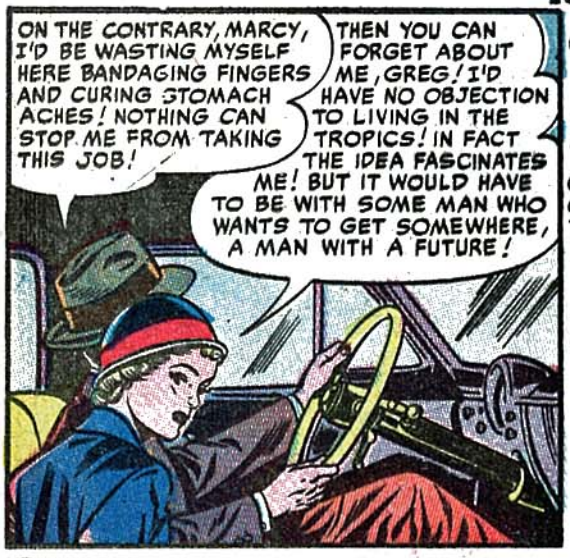
I WON'T MIND, DEAR GREG! WHEN I FELT YOUR ARMS ABOUT ME I KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE ANSWER! I'LL MARRY YOU! YOU'LL HAVE A SMALL PRACTICE AT FIRST BUT IT'LL GROW! I HAVE FAITH IN YOU!

MARCY, I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND! I DON'T WANT A PRIVATE PRACTICE! I'M INTERESTED IN TROPICAL DISEASES AND I WANT TO GO WHERE I CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM!

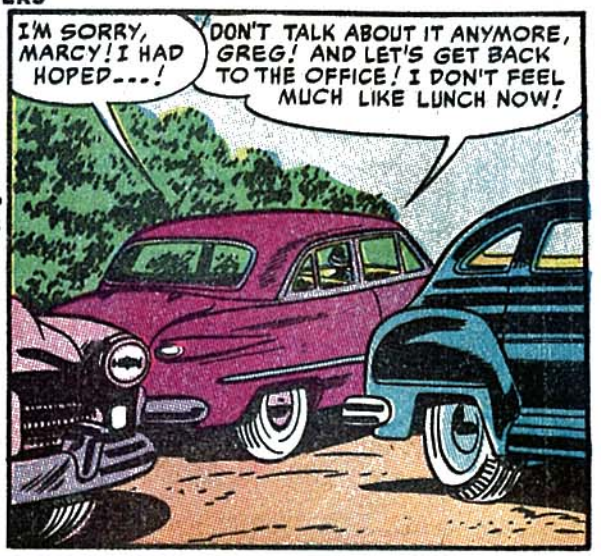
WH-WHAT?

IT WAS THE REASON I FIRST TOOK THE JOB WITH INTERNATIONAL SPICE--BECAUSE I THOUGHT EVENTUALLY THERE MIGHT BE AN OPENING IN THE TROPICS! THERE IS ONE NOW AND I WANT TO TAKE IT! YOU WILL COME WITH ME, WON'T YOU?

BUT, GREG, THERE'S NO FUTURE IN IT FOR A DOCTOR! NOTHING BUT A MODERATE SALARY! YOU'D BE WASTING YOURSELF!



There WAS A DULL ACHE IN MY HEART AND I COULDN'T QUITE KEEP THE TEARS BACK AS WE DROVE SLOWLY BACK TO THE OFFICE!



GRADUALLY RESENTMENT BEGAN TO TAKE THE PLACE OF PAIN ---



IN MY ANGER I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT FOSTER---



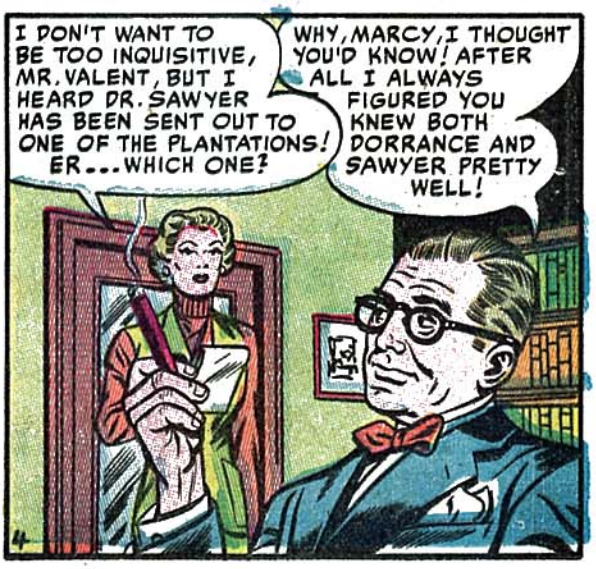


THE STINGING MEMORY OF MY QUARREL WITH GREG, THE EXCITING PROMISE OF A NEW LIFE ALMOST MADE ME CONSENT AT ONCE! BUT IT SEEMED WRONG SOMEHOW TO MARRY OUT OF PIQUE! AND BESIDES I WOULD WANT TO KNOW FIRST THAT FOSTER WAS SECURELY ESTABLISHED IN HIS NEW JOB!



FUNNY! ONE DAY I COULD SEE ALL I WANTED OF EITHER GREG OR FOSTER-- AND A WEEK LATER THEY WERE BOTH GONE--TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD!





ER...I DID--BUT GREG---I MEAN DR. SAWYER AND I WEREN'T GETTING ALONG TOO WELL JUST BEFORE HE LEFT!

HMM! I GET IT! WELL ODDLY ENOUGH, BOTH YOUR BOY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SAME PLANTATION IN INDIA, MARCY! COINCIDENCE, EH?

COINCIDENCE? MAYBE! OR WAS IT FATE DETERMINED THAT LIFE FOR MARCY MAYO WAS NOT TO BE SIMPLE?

THAT MEANS IF I DO DECIDE TO JOIN FOSTER AND MARRY HIM, GREG WILL BE AROUND TO TORTURE ME WITH DOUBTS!

WHAT NONSENSE! GREG HAD HIS CHANCE! IF HE HAPPENS TO BE ON THE SAME PLANTATION THAT'S NO REASON WHY I CAN'T MARRY FOSTER AND BE HAPPY WITH HIM!

THE MONTHS PASSED SLOWLY, MARKED ONLY BY THE STREAM OF LETTERS THAT CAME REGULARLY FROM FOSTER, LETTERS THAT TOLD OF THE GREAT JOB HE WAS DOING, LETTERS THAT SPOKE OF LOVE!

...I have this plantation running my way now. Another week or so and I'll have the house in shape to receive you. Then I'll send the call, dearest Marcy, and don't fail me! Adoringly, Foster

NOT LONG AFTERWARD THE MOST MOMENTOUS LETTER OF MY LIFE ARRIVED---

Everything is set now, darling! You can't turn me down! You'd stay here for a few days to get the feel of the place (there will be native shapperones) and then we'll be married! All arrangements have been made for your flight. I love you! Foster

I'LL DO IT! FOSTER IS STRONG, MASTERFUL! HE GOES AFTER WORTHWHILE THINGS AND GETS THEM!

BUT AS MY PLANE WINGED ITS WAY TOWARD INDIA I HAD TO KEEP DRIVING GREG'S IMAGE OUT OF MY IMAGINATION!

WHY DO I HAVE TO THINK OF GREG? HE'S NOTHING TO ME NOW!

I DIDN'T SEE GREG AT ALL WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE PLANTATION---

WHEN I GOT HERE I FOUND THAT THESE BOYS WERE JUST WORKING AT A SNAIL'S PACE! BUT LOOK AT THEM NOW! PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DOUBLED!

FOSTER, LOOK! THAT MAN'S FAINTED!

BAH! ONE OF THE SHIRKERS TRYING TO GET SOME SYMPATHY!

FOSTER, WHO IS HE?

THE LOCAL HOLY MAN! HE SITS THAT WAY FOR DAYS, MEDITATING! THE NATIVES REVERE HIM BUT I SAW TO IT THAT HE WAS PUT IN HIS PLACE THE FIRST TIME HE TRIED TO TALK ME INTO GOING BACK TO THE OLD EASYGOING POLICY THEY USED TO HAVE HERE!

SOME DISCORDANT NOTE STIRRED UNEASILY WITHIN ME! I DETECTED A RUTHLESSNESS IN FOSTER THAT WAS ALMOST FRIGHTENING!

IS IT WISE TO BE SO SEVERE, FOSTER?

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, MARCY! THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW WHO'S BOSS!

STRANGE HOW RELIEVED I FELT THE FIRST TIME I WAS ABLE TO MOVE AROUND THE PLANTATION BY MYSELF!

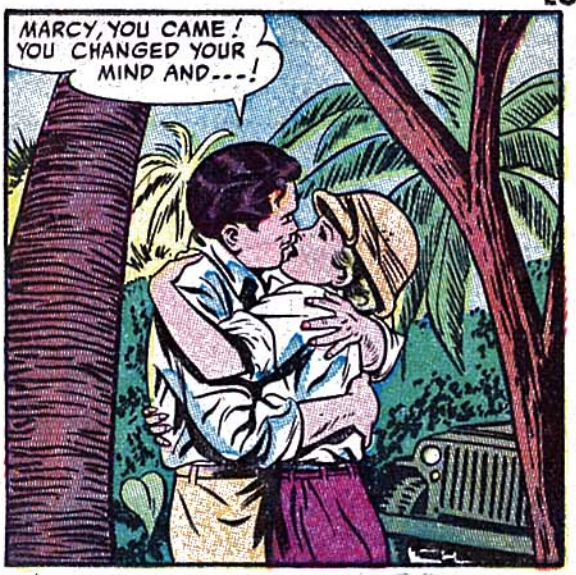
FOSTER SAID HE WOULDN'T BE HOME FOR SEVERAL HOURS!

I DIDN'T KNOW THE RUTTED ROADS AND TRAILS... AND YET IT WAS AS IF SOME GRAVITATIONAL FORCE WERE PULLING ME TOWARD A PARTICULAR SPOT!

I THINK FOSTER SAID THE HOSPITAL WAS OVER IN THAT DIRECTION! I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE!

IT WAS ONLY WHEN I SAW GREG THAT I HAD TO FACE THE FACT THAT I HADN'T DEVELOPED A SUDDEN INTEREST IN PLANTATION HOSPITALS!

MARCY!

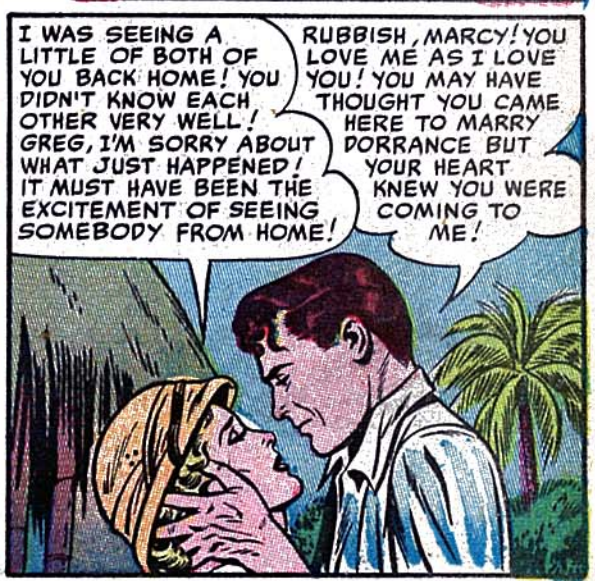


SOMETHING OUTSIDE ME SEEMED TO MAKE ME CLOSE MY LIPS ON GREG'S BEFORE HE COULD FINISH!



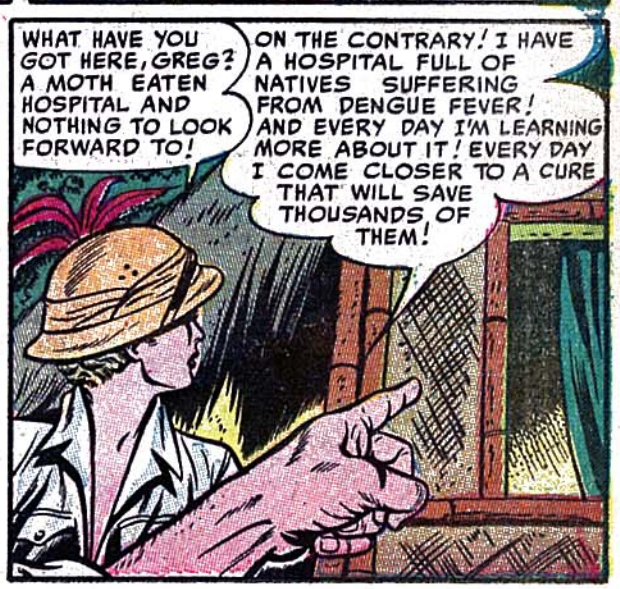
And THEN I WAS TEARING MYSELF AWAY, FILLED WITH REMORSE AND TORMENT!





THE TRUTH IN GREG'S WORDS HIT ME LIKE A SLAP IN THE FACE --- AND LIKE A SLAP IN THE FACE, THEY FILLED ME WITH ANGER!









It WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE I WOULD EAT THOSE WORDS BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN! NEXT DAY...



It SEEMED FUTILE TO SAY ANY MORE! ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS THE REVULSION I HAD FELT WHEN FOSTER HAD MENTIONED THE WEDDING!





JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE HOUSE, A CALM, GENTLE VOICE CAME TO OUR EARS!

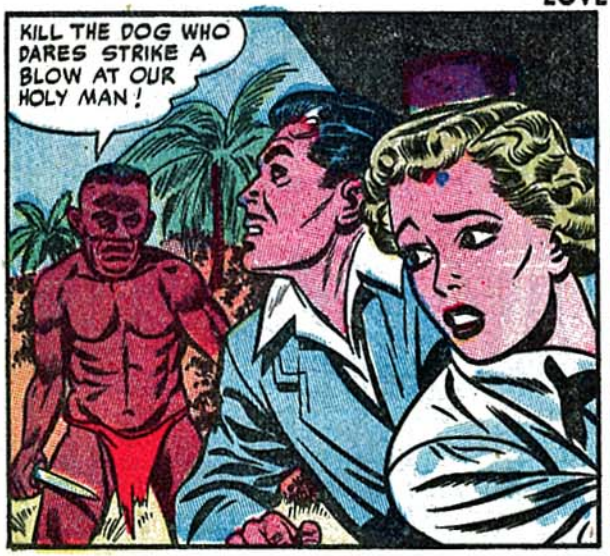




I WAS HORRIFIED AS I SAW THE LOOK OF OF HATEFUL BRUTALITY ON FOSTER'S FACE!







I SHRANK BACK IN HORROR FROM THE SIGHT BEFORE ME!



But THE HATE-CRAZED NATIVE WAS BEYOND HEEDING THE COMMANDS OF THE REVERED HOLY MAN! MURDER SEEMED INEVITABLE! THEN SUDDENLY...





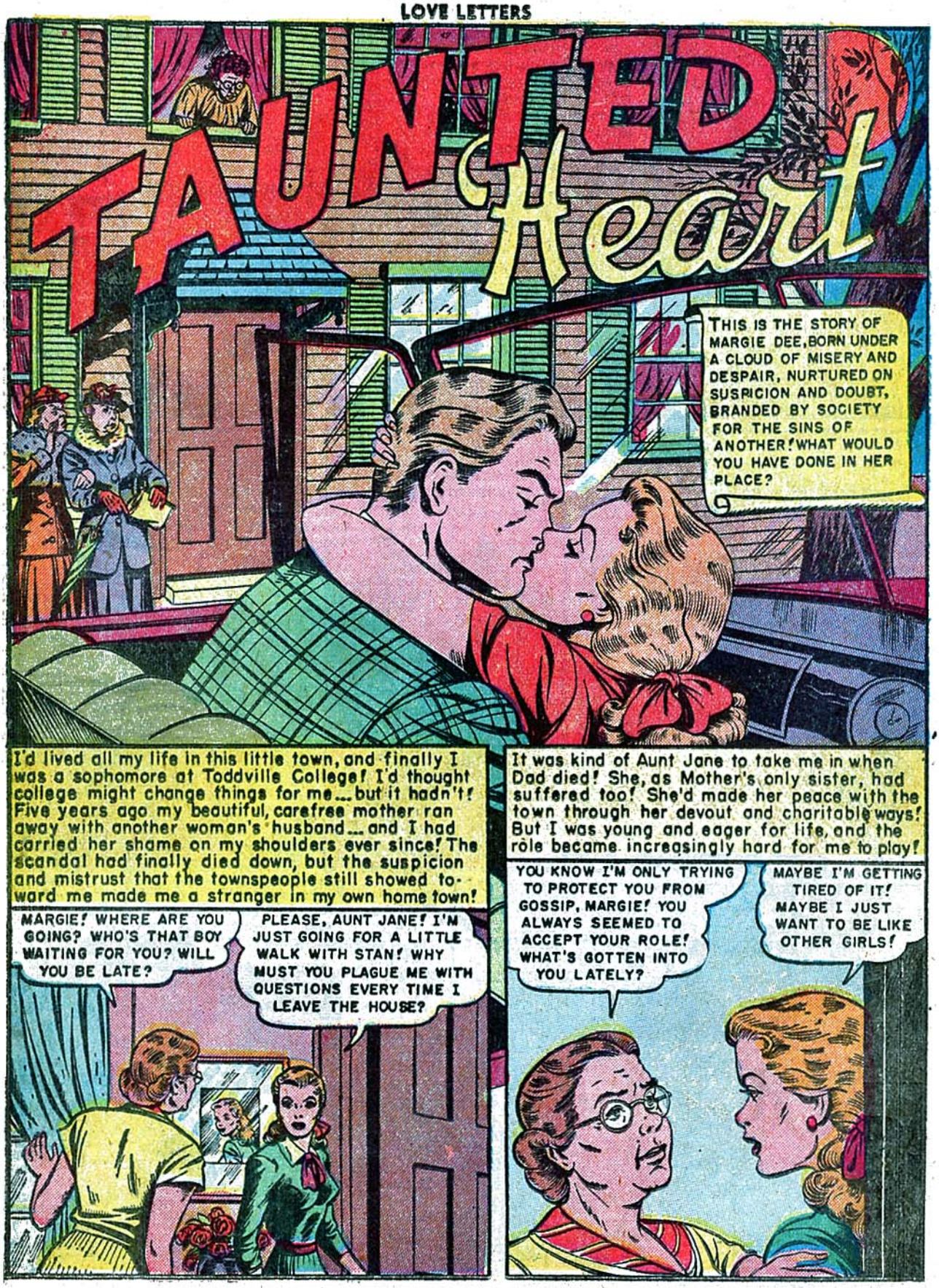


AS THE TERRIBLE LITTLE DRAMA ENDED, ALL MY SENSES SEEMED TO AWAKEN, MY MIND SEEMED TO OPEN UP! WHAT A FOOL I HAD BEEN TO MISTAKE FOSTER'S STUBBORNESS FOR STRENGTH, GREG'S IDEALISM FOR WEAKNESS!

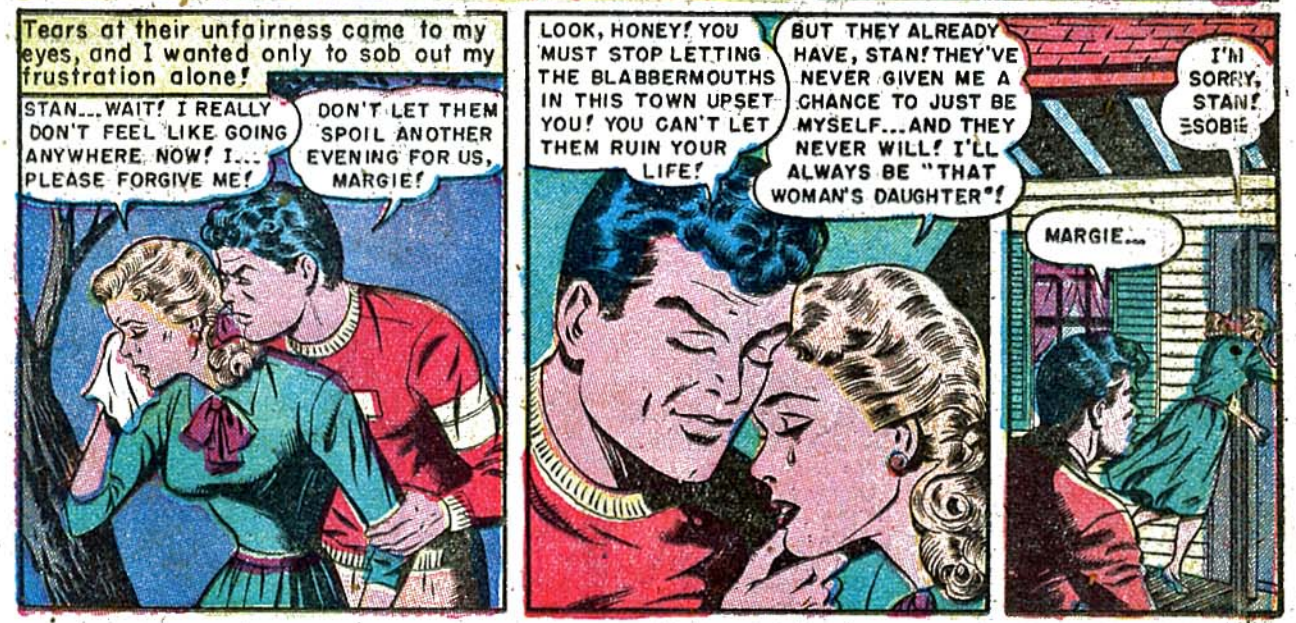


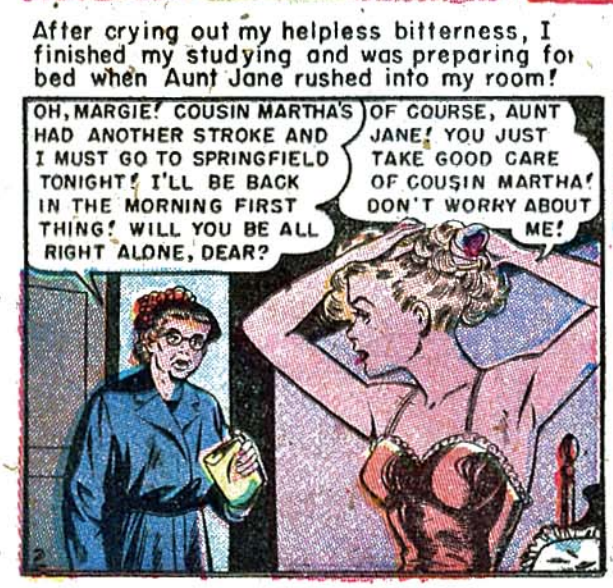
FOSTER WAS RECALLED TO THE STATES AND A NEW, MORE UNDERSTANDING PLANTATION MANAGER WAS SENT OUT! AS FOR GREG AND ME--- WE SHARE THE BURDENS OF THE HOSPITAL, BURDENS LIGHTENED BY OUR LOVE!

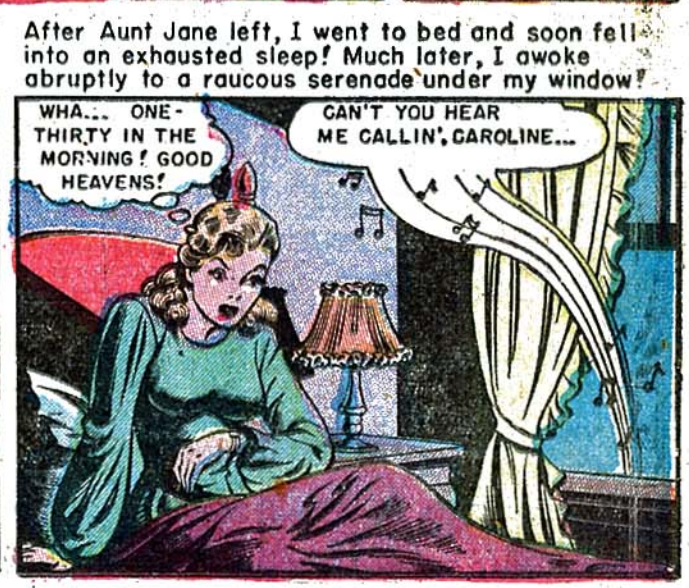



TAUNTED Heart
THIS IS THE STORY OF MARGIE DEE, BORN UNDER A CLOUD OF MISERY AND DESPAIR, NURTURED ON SUSPICION AND DOUBT, BRANDED BY SOCIETY FOR THE SINS OF ANOTHER! WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN HER PLACE?
I'd lived all my life in this little town, and finally I was a sophomore at Toddville College! I'd thought college might change things for me... but it hadn't! Five years ago my beautiful, carefree mother ran away with another woman's husband... and I had carried her shame on my shoulders ever since! The scandal had finally died down, but the suspicion and mistrust that the townspeople still showed toward me made me a stranger in my own home town!
It was kind of Aunt Jane to take me in when Dad died! She, as Mother's only sister, had suffered too! She'd made her peace with the town through her devout and charitable ways! But I was young and eager for life, and the rôle became increasingly hard for me to play!
MARGIE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHO'S THAT BOY WAITING FOR YOU? WILL YOU BE LATE?
PLEASE, AUNT JANE! I'M JUST GOING FOR A LITTLE WALK WITH STAN! WHY MUST YOU PLAGUE ME WITH QUESTIONS EVERY TIME I LEAVE THE HOUSE?
YOU KNOW I'M ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT YOU FROM GOSSIP, MARGIE! YOU ALWAYS SEEMED TO ACCEPT YOUR ROLE! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU LATELY?
MAYBE I'M GETTING TIRED OF IT! MAYBE I JUST WANT TO BE LIKE OTHER GIRLS!

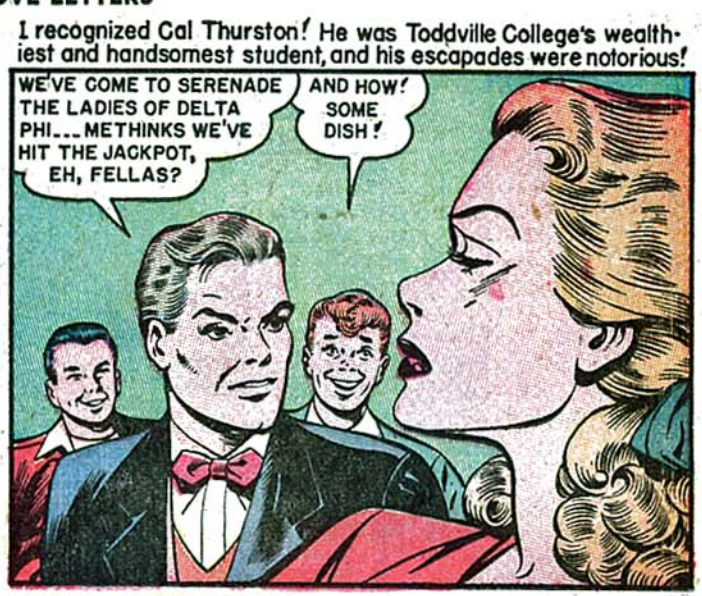

My heart was heavy as I joined Stan who was waiting on the porch! I'd known Stan all my life! He was one of the few who'd never cared about what had happened ...but now he seemed annoyed!
HELLO, STAN!
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING, MARGIE! WHY DOES YOUR AUNT ALWAYS HARP AT YOU? YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR MOTHER'S ACTIONS... AND NOBODY BUT THE GOSSIPS EVER EVEN THINK OF IT!
I WISH THAT WERE TRUE, BUT IT ISN'T! THIS TOWN WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT MY MOTHER DID! LOOK...NEXT DOOR! THERE'S MRS. SMITH WATCHING US FROM HER WINDOW! AND MRS. CARTER STARING FROM ACROSS THE STREET!
DARNED OLD BUSYBODIES! LET'S GO!


Tears at their unfairness came to my eyes, and I wanted only to sob out my frustration alone!
STAN...WAIT! I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING ANYWHERE NOW! I... PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
DON'T LET THEM SPOIL ANOTHER EVENING FOR US, MARGIE!
LOOK, HONEY! YOU MUST STOP LETTING THE BLABBERMOUTHS IN THIS TOWN UPSET YOU! YOU CAN'T LET THEM RUIN YOUR LIFE!
BUT THEY ALREADY HAVE, STAN! THEY'VE NEVER GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO JUST BE MYSELF...AND THEY NEVER WILL! I'LL ALWAYS BE "THAT WOMAN'S DAUGHTER"!
I'M SORRY, STAN! ESOBIE
MARGIE...


After crying out my helpless bitterness, I finished my studying and was preparing for bed when Aunt Jane rushed into my room!
OH, MARGIE! COUSIN MARTHA'S HAD ANOTHER STROKE AND I MUST GO TO SPRINGFIELD TONIGHT! I'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING FIRST THING! WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ALONE, DEAR?
OF COURSE, AUNT JANE! YOU JUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF COUSIN MARTHA! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
2


After Aunt Jane left, I went to bed and soon fell into an exhausted sleep! Much later, I awoke abruptly to a raucous serenade under my window!
WHA... ONE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING! GOOD HEAVENS!
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLIN', CAROLINE...


I threw on my robe and dashed downstairs! As I opened the back door...
WE'RE POOR LITTLE LAMBS WHO HAVE LOST OUR PATH...
SSHH! YOU'LL WAKE EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?


I recognized Cal Thurston! He was Toddville College's wealthiest and handsomest student, and his escapades were notorious!
WE'VE COME TO SERENADE THE LADIES OF DELTA PHI... METHINKS WE'VE HIT THE JACKPOT, EH, FELLAS?
AND HOW! SOME DISH!

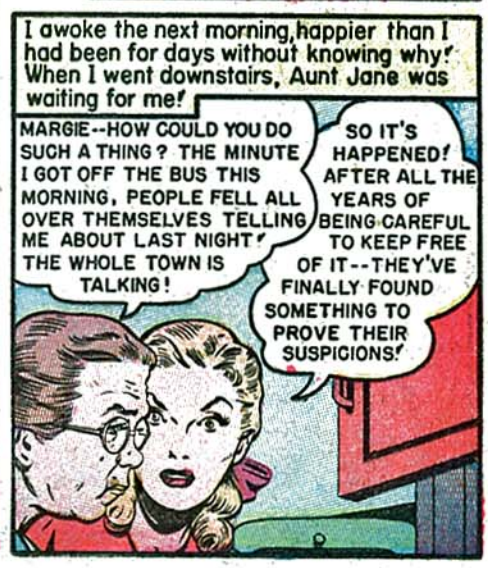

HEY, CAL! WE'VE GOT THE WRONG HOUSE! DELTA PHI IS TWO HOUSES DOWN THE STREET!
THEIR LOSS IS MY GAIN! YOU GO WARBLE TO THE DELTA PHI S, BOYS! I'VE FOUND WHAT I WANT RIGHT HERE!


PLEASE GO AWAY! PLEASE!
O.K., BABY-- IF YOU PROMISE TO MEET ME AT THE PRACTICE FIELD TOMORROW AFTERNOON!


Suddenly, what I had been fearing most, happened!
SO-- MARGIE DEE! THIS IS WHAT YOU DO THE MINUTE YOUR POOR AUNT TURNS HER BACK! WELL-- WITH YOUR BACKGROUND, I'M NOT SURPRISED! JUST WAIT UNTIL THE SCHOOL BOARD HEARS ABOUT THIS!
BUT, MRS. SMITH...


NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE! SHE MAY EVEN TRY TO GET ME EXPELLED!
DON'T WORRY, BEAUTIFUL! MY DAD HAS CONNECTIONS! HE'LL FIX THAT! SO YOU'RE MARGIE DEE! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU! I'LL BE WAITING TOMORROW, BABY! DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!


I watched them disappear into the darkness, then ran breathlessly to my room!
I WONDER WHETHER CAL MEANT THAT ABOUT TOMORROW! BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE'S FAST AND IRRESPONSIBLE! GETTING INVOLVED WITH HIM WOULD MEAN SURE DEATH FOR ME IN THIS TOWN!


I awoke the next morning, happier than I had been for days without knowing why! When I went downstairs, Aunt Jane was waiting for me!
MARGIE--HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING? THE MINUTE I GOT OFF THE BUS THIS MORNING, PEOPLE FELL ALL OVER THEMSELVES TELLING ME ABOUT LAST NIGHT! THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING!
SO IT'S HAPPENED! AFTER ALL THE YEARS OF BEING CAREFUL TO KEEP FREE OF IT-- THEY'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING TO PROVE THEIR SUSPICIONS!

In a daze I went outside and headed for the campus! As I stumbled blindly down the street and heard the whispers drifting after me, each one left a scar on an already gaping wound! I knew how small town gossip worked...a vicious cycle of telephone calls...a whispered tidbit...and the final story holding only a kernel of truth!





And so the afternoon found me at the practice field!



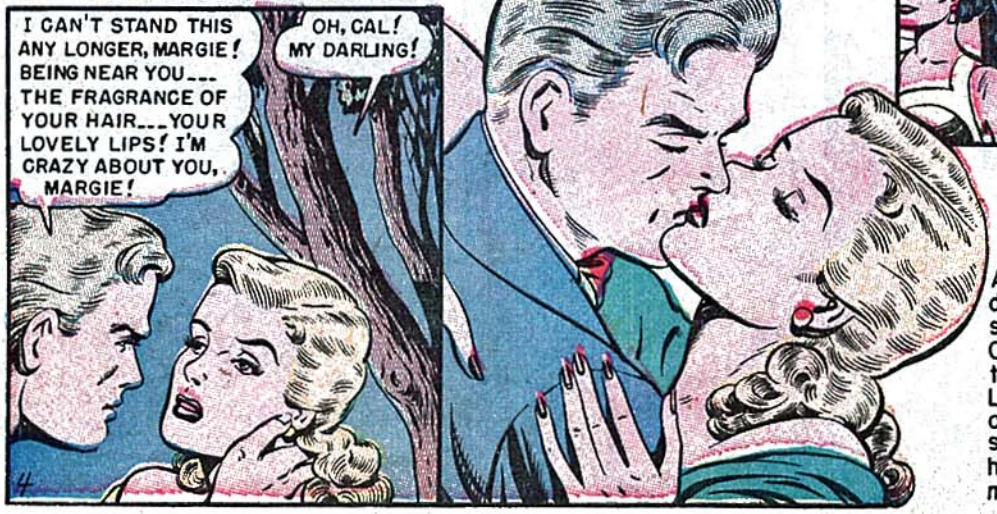
Though I went with Cal at first in defiance of the town's prejudice, soon the excitement I had tasted the first night we met became a permanent part of everything we did together!



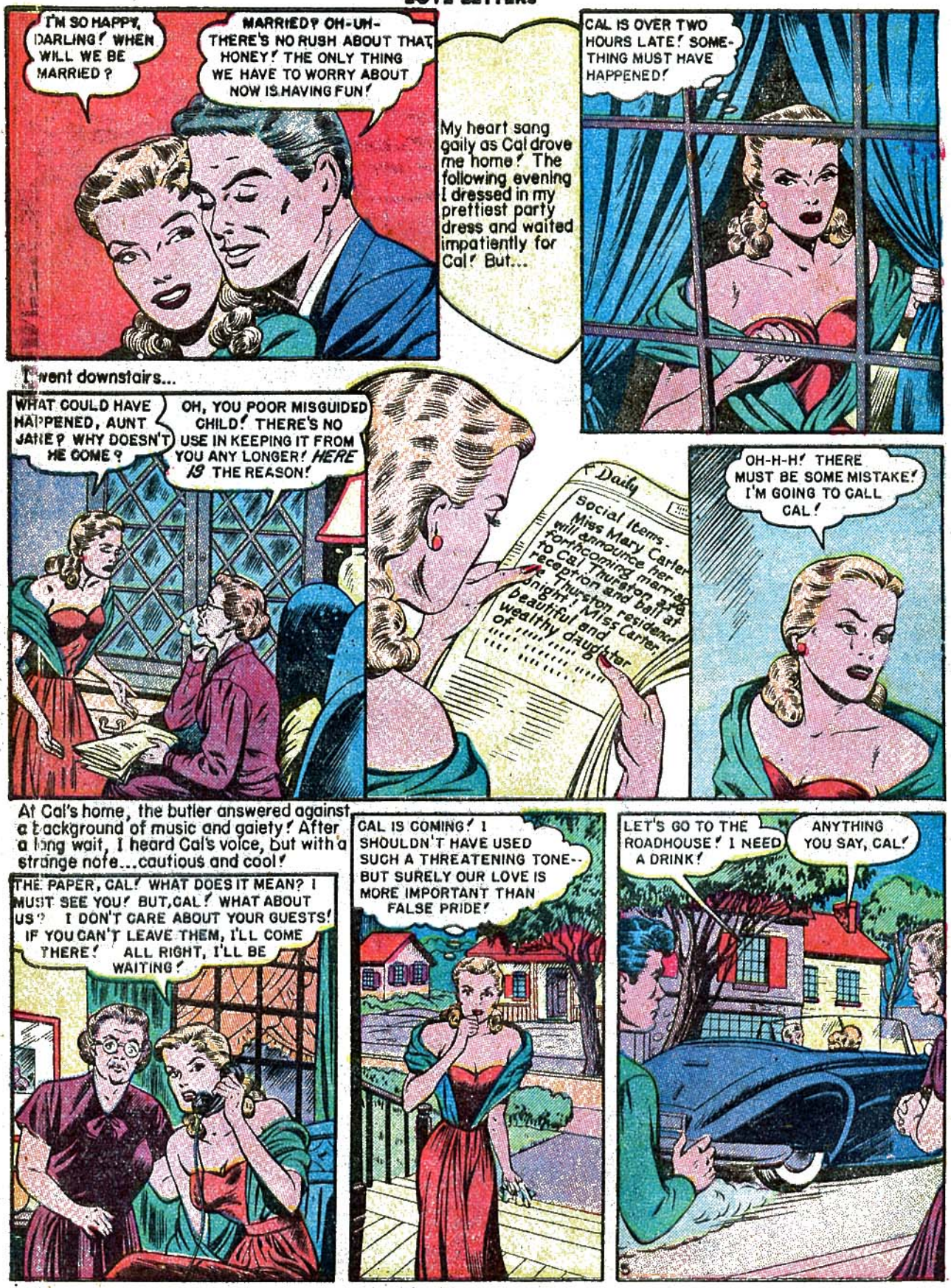
Cal took me to his favorite spot, a loud, gaudy roadhouse! I was repelled by the raucous, glittering cheapness of the place and the people! But remembering my promise to myself, I threw myself feverishly into the atmosphere until I was as much at ease as Cal!

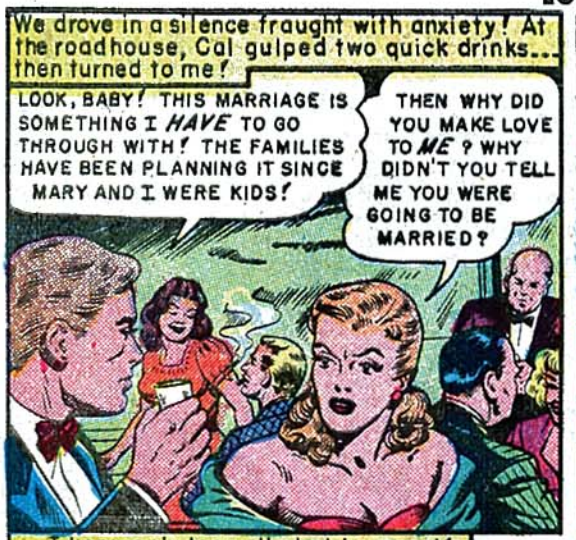


The weeks flew by, packed with exhilaration! The few self-reproaches I suffered at first, soon lost themselves in the thrill of love I began to feel for Cal...and then...



All my fears and doubts dissolved in the exquisite fire of rapture in Cal's kiss! How could this be "wrong" or "bad"? Let them talk! How could their shriveled little spinsters' souls comprehend a love like Cal's and mine?


I'M SO HAPPY, DARLING! WHEN WILL WE BE MARRIED?
MARRIED? OH-UH- THERE'S NO RUSH ABOUT THAT, HONEY! THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT NOW IS HAVING FUN!
My heart sang gaily as Cal drove me home! The following evening I dressed in my prettiest party dress and waited impatiently for Cal! But...
CAL IS OVER TWO HOURS LATE! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED!
I went downstairs...
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED, AUNT JANE? WHY DOESN'T HE COME?
OH, YOU POOR MISGUIDED CHILD! THERE'S NO USE IN KEEPING IT FROM YOU ANY LONGER! HERE IS THE REASON!
Daily
Social Items - Miss Mary Carter will announce her forthcoming marriage to Cal Thurston at a reception and ball at the Thurston residence tonight! Miss Carter, beautiful and wealthy daughter of
OH-H-H! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! I'M GOING TO CALL CAL!
At Cal's home, the butler answered against a background of music and gaiety! After a long wait, I heard Cal's voice, but with a strange note...cautious and cool!
THE PAPER, CAL! WHAT DOES IT MEAN? I MUST SEE YOU! BUT, CAL! WHAT ABOUT US? I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR GUESTS! IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM, I'LL COME THERE! ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE WAITING!
CAL IS COMING! I SHOULDN'T HAVE USED SUCH A THREATENING TONE-- BUT SURELY OUR LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FALSE PRIDE!
LET'S GO TO THE ROADHOUSE! I NEED A DRINK!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, CAL!





I knew only too well what he meant! I felt a flush of fury rising to my cheeks and suddenly, it was incredible to me that I could ever have mistaken an insidious, overpowering infatuation for this man for love!



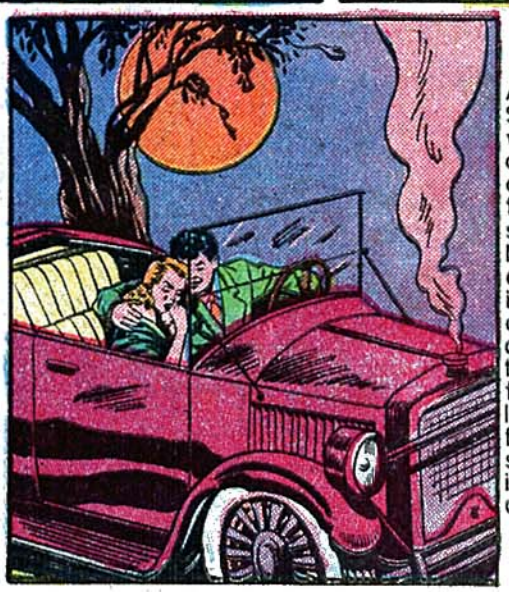
Without another word, Cal walked out of the roadhouse--- and out of my life! I sat, stunned with bitter despair! The town had won! All of the fight had gone out of me --- then---







In the warm protective circle of Stan's arms, I gave in to the overflow of anguish which could find respite only in tears!



As I listened to Stan's tender words of encouragement and hope and love, I began to see that the shadow of my Mother's misdeed could only hurt me insofar as I allowed it to--- and though it was too soon for me to return Stan's love, I could face the future strong and secure in the knowledge of that love!

QUALITY ROMANCE PATTERNS

PATTERNS 25c EACH

8589. The most important part of every junior wardrobe for warm weather is the pretty blouse and skirt combination to mix or match with similar items in her wardrobe. Make the skirt illustrated of a gay all over flowered print with or without the ruffle, and have the peasant blouse in crisp white. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18. Size 12, blouse, 2 yards of 39-inch; skirt, 2¾ yards of 39-inch; ruffle, ⅞ yard.



8578. For general wear all summer long—sleeveless dress to capture the sun with brief button-on jacket that turns it into a smart street costume. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 12, dress, 4¼ yards of 39-inch fabric; jacket, 1 yard.





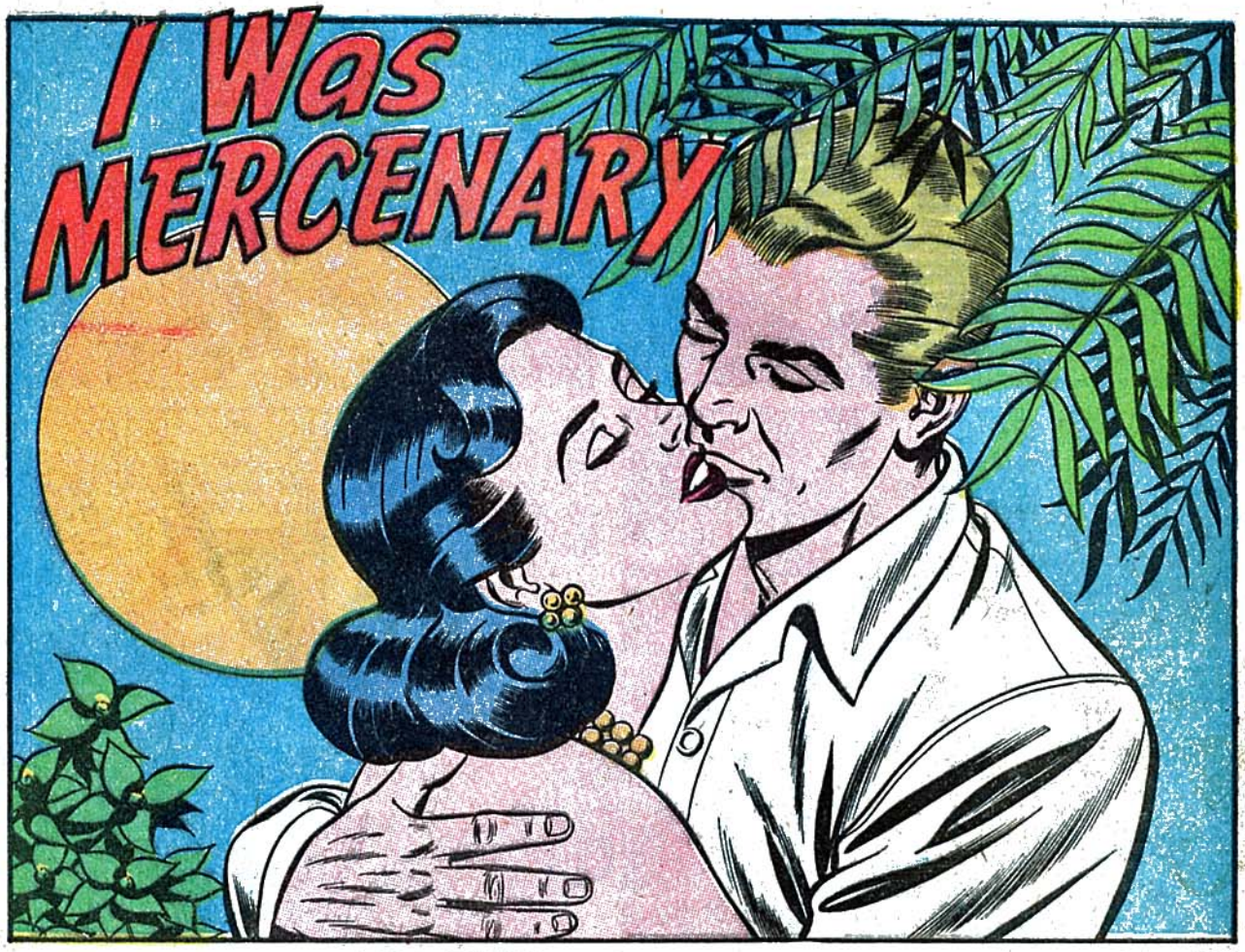
8552. Dress your little cherubs alike in these adorable, easy to make play clothes. Short or long overalls are suitable for boy or girl. Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 years. Size 3, dress, 1½ yds. of 39-inch; panties, ⅝ yd.; short overalls, 1 yard; long overalls, 1⅝ yards.

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DRIVEN BY HANDSOME KIT WAYNE'S GREED---AND BLINDED BY AN INFATUATION SHE MISTOOK FOR LOVE, CARLA HARDING, GOVERNESS TO THE MOTHERLESS CHILDREN OF WEALTHY, INVALIDED JASON BRANDON, THOUGHT SHE COULD WED ONE MAN AND LOVE ANOTHER---AND THAT HER HUSBAND'S DEATH WOULD FREE HER TO RETURN TO KIT'S ARMS! BUT DEEP WITHIN HER HEART, A GIRL IS EITHER GOOD OR BAD--- AND FATE COUNTED ON *THAT* AS AN ANSWER FOR---

I Was MERCENARY



When JASON BRANDON EMPLOYED ME ME, I WAS "MISS HARDING" GOVERNESS"! ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON-- MY BELOVED KIT---KNEW THAT I INTENDED TO BECOME MRS. JASON BRANDON! AND I NEVER LET A CHANCE SLIP BY TO FURTHER MY OBJECTIVE!





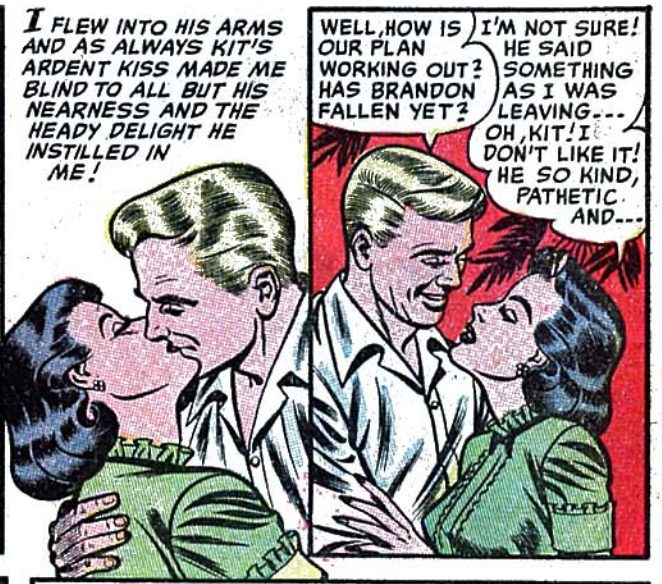


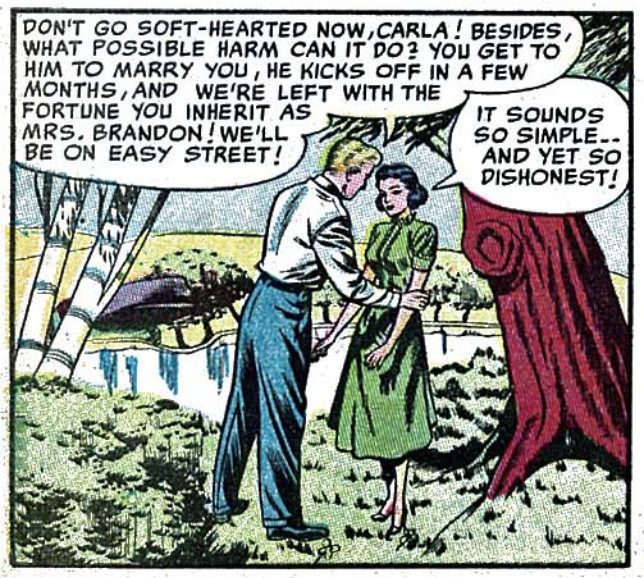


Feeling THAT MY GOAL MIGHT NOT BE TOO DISTANT AFTER ALL, I HURRIED OUT! MY DESTINATION WAS A SECLUDED WOODS NEAR THE HOUSE WHERE KIT AND I HAD ARRANGED TO MEET!



I FLEW INTO HIS ARMS AND AS ALWAYS KIT'S ARDENT KISS MADE ME BLIND TO ALL BUT HIS NEARNESS AND THE HEADY DELIGHT HE INSTILLED IN ME!



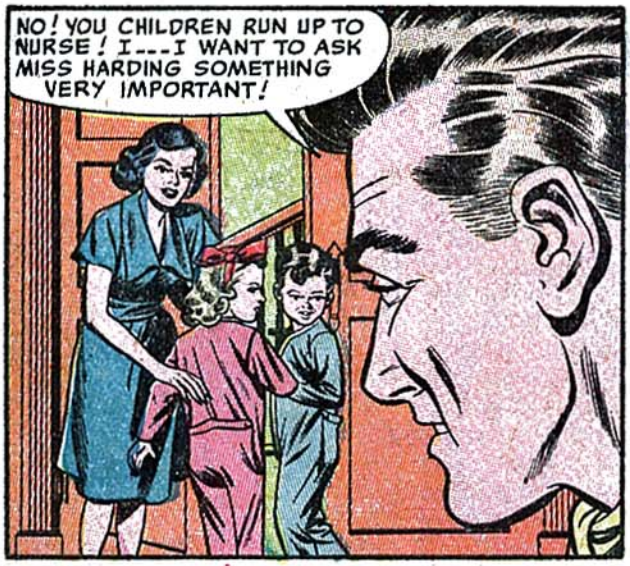




I REDOUBLED MY EFFORTS DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS! I WAS KIND, THOUGHTFUL, AND ABLE TO ANTICIPATE JASON BRANDON'S EVERY NEED! AND FINALLY IT PAID OFF! ONE NIGHT---







THE CHILDREN LEFT AND TIME STOOD STILL AS I WAITED BREATHLESSLY FOR JASON BRANDON'S NEXT WORDS!









LOVE LETTERS



WE WERE MARRIED THE NEXT DAY, BUT THAT WAS AS FAR AS OUR SCHEME SEEMED DESTINED TO GO, FOR TWO MONTHS LATER, JASON WAS NO CLOSER TO THE END--- INSTEAD HE SEEMED STRONGER AND HEALTHIER THAN BEFORE THE WEDDING! I SAW KIT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AND ONE NIGHT---















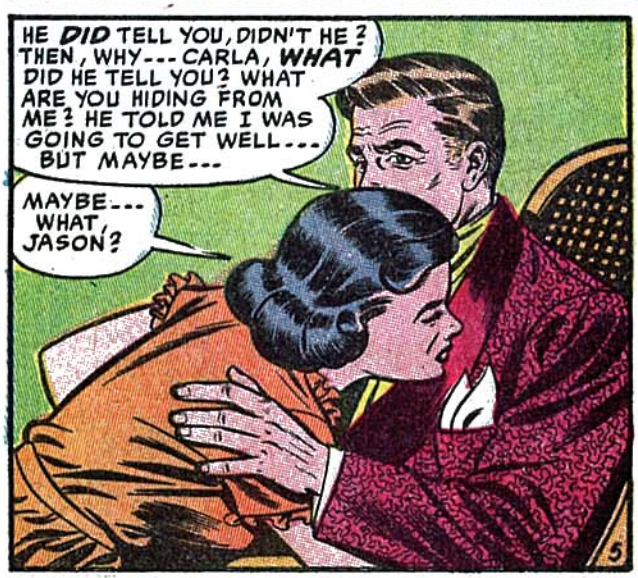
For THE FIRST TIME SINCE I'D KNOWN AND LOVED KIT, I GLIMPSED SOMETHING UGLY AND CRUEL BEHIND THAT HANDSOME MASK! WITH MY THOUGHTS IN A TURMOIL, I WALKED BACK TO THE HOUSE, WHEN SUDDENLY...









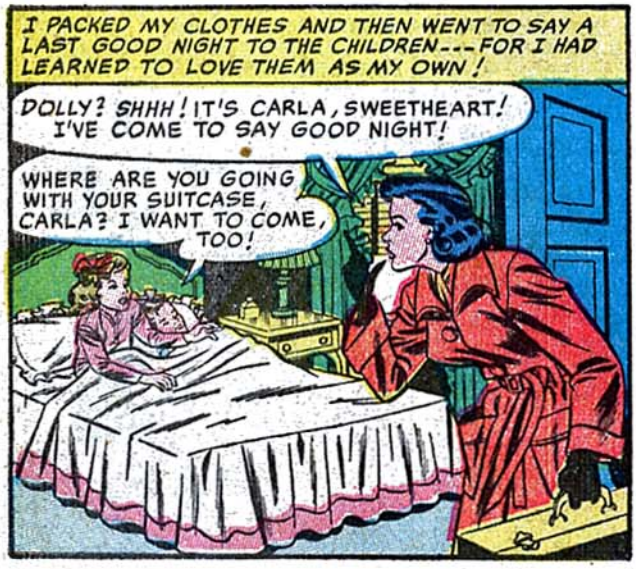


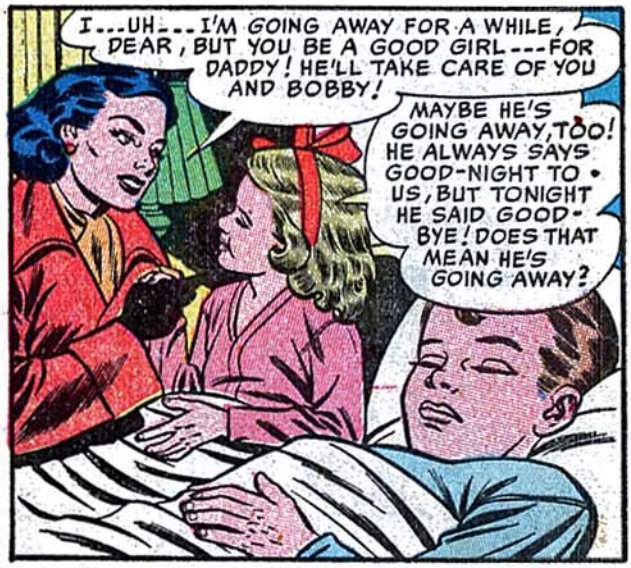



MY BRAVE LITTLE CARLA! YOU NEEDN'T TRY TO HIDE IT FROM ME! DON'T GRIEVE, MY DEAR! YOU'VE GIVEN ME TWO OF THE HAPPIEST MONTHS OF MY LIFE!
NO! NO! NOO-O!


YOU MUST BELIEVE THE DOCTOR! HE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH!
ALL RIGHT, DARLING ---IF YOU WANT ME TO! NOW LEAVE ME FOR AWHILE! THERE IS SO MUCH I HAVE TO DO!


KIT WILL HATE ME WHEN HE GETS THIS LETTER TELLING HIM I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! AND JASON WILL HATE ME WHEN HE GETS THIS ONE!
and that is the ugly sordid story of what Kit Wayne and I tried to do, Jason. I'm going away now! I love you too much to hurt you any more!

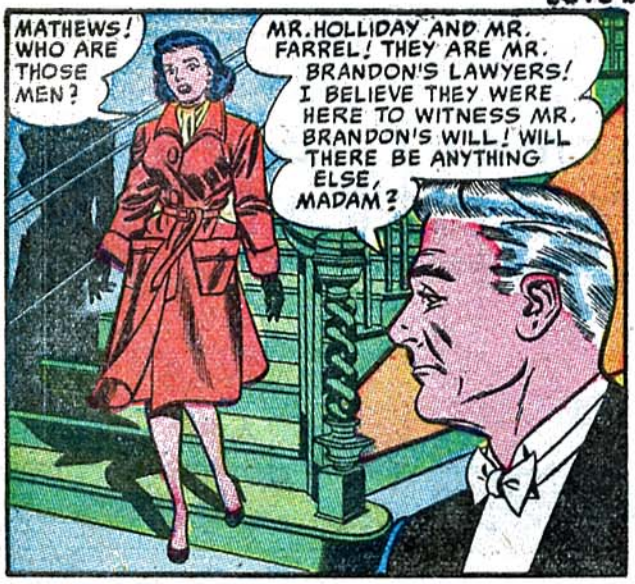

I PACKED MY CLOTHES AND THEN WENT TO SAY A LAST GOOD NIGHT TO THE CHILDREN---FOR I HAD LEARNED TO LOVE THEM AS MY OWN!
DOLLY? SHHH! IT'S CARLA, SWEETHEART! I'VE COME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH YOUR SUITCASE, CARLA? I WANT TO COME, TOO!


I---UH---I'M GOING AWAY FOR A WHILE, DEAR, BUT YOU BE A GOOD GIRL---FOR DADDY! HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU AND BOBBY!
MAYBE HE'S GOING AWAY, TOO! HE ALWAYS SAYS GOOD-NIGHT TO US, BUT TONIGHT HE SAID GOOD-BYE! DOES THAT MEAN HE'S GOING AWAY?


NO, DEAR! I--I THINK IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE! ARE YOU SURE HE SAID "GOOD-BYE"?
OH, YES! AND HE MADE US PROMISE TO BE GOOD FOR YOU! ISN'T THAT FUNNY?


GO TO SLEEP NOW, DOLLY! I--I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I MUST DO!
ALL RIGHT, CARLA!


I WONDER! MAYBE IT WAS JUST A SLIP OF THE TONGUE! HE WOULDN'T---OH, WHO ARE THOSE MEN LEAVING JASON'S STUDY? I DON'T WANT JASON TO SEE ME LEAVE!
6













AFTER A LITTLE LEGAL PERSUASION FROM JASON'S LAWYERS, KIT WAYNE MIRACULOUSLY DISAPPEARED! AND I'M STILL TRYING TO ERASE MY MISTAKE BY BEING THE MOST DEVOTED WIFE A MAN COULD WANT! JASON WILL BE COMPLETELY WELL SOON--- AND ONLY THEN WILL MY HAPPINESS BE COMPLETE!



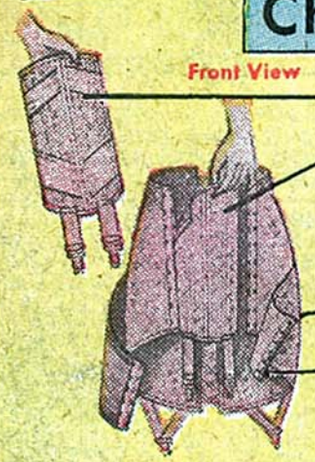
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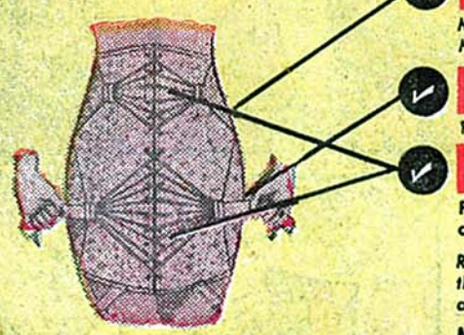
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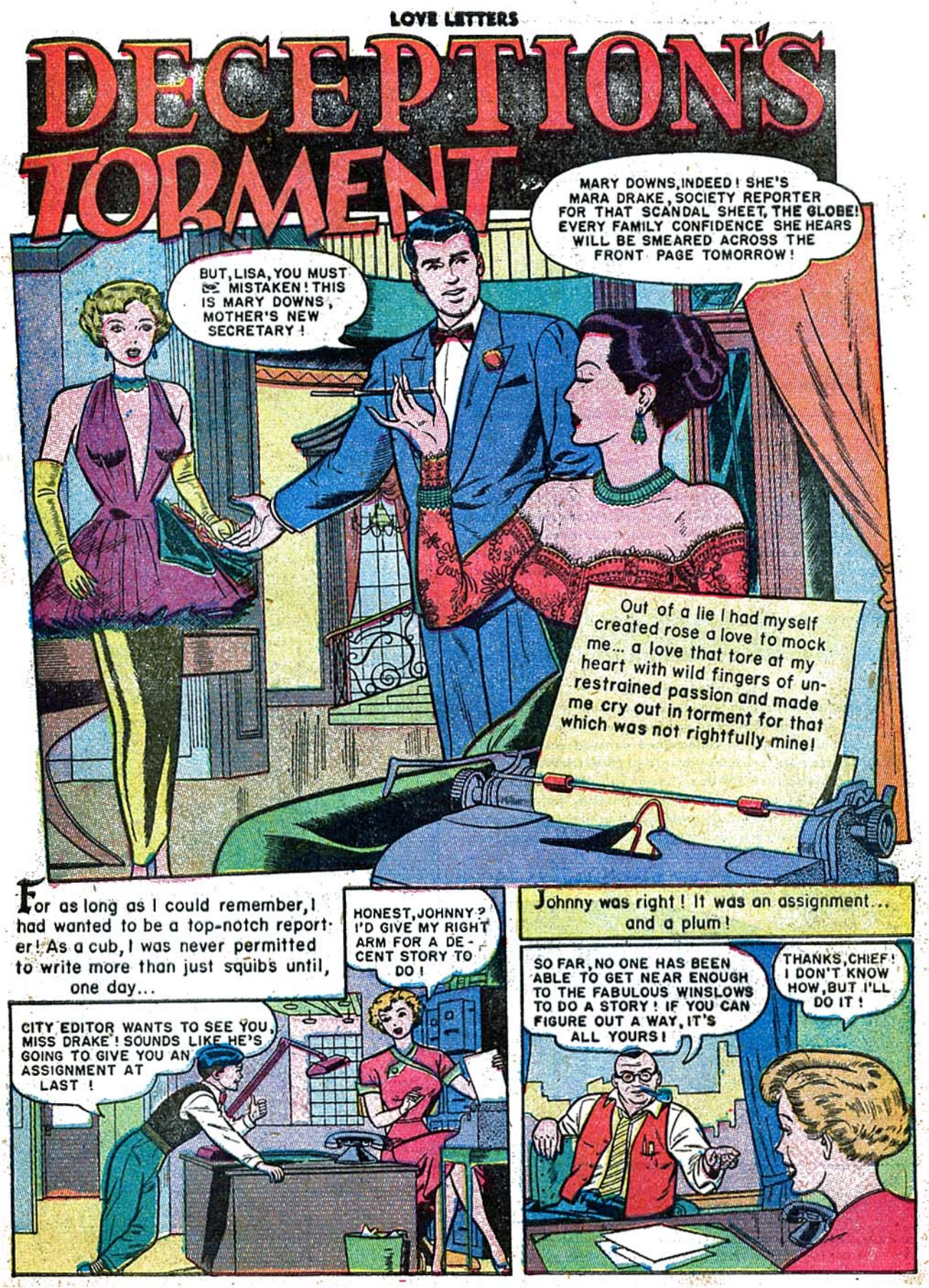


My waist measure is..... Hips are.....
My usual girdle length is.....(write clearly)
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DECEPTION'S TORMENT



I spent the next few days in research! The Winslow blue bloods were publicity-shy, lived on an estate that was closed to all but them and their employees! Suddenly, an idea struck me!

EMPLOYEES...THAT'S IT! I'LL TRY TO WANGLE A JOB AS MRS. WINSLOW'S SECRETARY! THAT'S THE PERFECT SPOT TO SEE WHAT MAKES THEM TICK!

WHY, YES, WE DO HAVE AN OPENING FOR A SECRETARY WITH MRS. WINSLOW! SHE WANTED AN OLDER PERSON, BUT I THINK YOU'LL DO NICELY, MISS...ER...

...UH, DOWNS, MARY DOWNS! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK FOR MRS. WINSLOW!

GENCY

THIS WAY, MISS DOWNS! MRS. WINSLOW WILL SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY!

IMMEDIATELY? M..M! LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT PLANNING TO PULL HER RANK JUST YET, ANYWAY!

Flushed with victory, I went back to the office for final instructions!

GOOD GIRL! IF OLD LADY WINSLOW ISN'T SUSPICIOUS AND HIRES YOU, START DIGGING AND FIND OUT ALL THEIR DIRT! WE WANT A COMPLETE STORY, SO SPARE NOTHING!

DON'T WORRY, CHIEF! IF THEY HAVEN'T GOT A SKELETON IN THEIR CLOSET, I'LL PUT ONE THERE! THIS IS MY BREAK AND I'LL MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

At last, I was before the famed Mrs. Winslow! Her eyes were inscrutable all through our interview and I began to wonder if I had failed!

VERY WELL, MY DEAR! YOU SEEM TO HAVE FINE QUALIFICATIONS! I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH US!

THANK YOU, MRS WINSLOW! I'M SURE I WILL!

"Happy was not the word! I expected to be delirious with joy when I got my exclusive scoop! Little did she know!

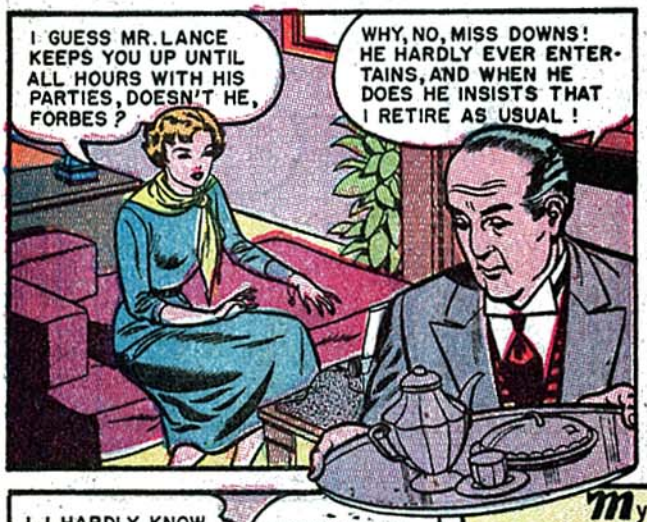
FORBES WILL SHOW YOU YOUR ROOM! I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO REFRESH YOURSELF BEFORE DINNER... OH, HELLO, DEAR! COME AND MEET MISS DOWNS, MY NEW SECRETARY!

HELLO, MISS DOWNS! GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US! MOTHER ALWAYS WAS A BAD CORRESPONDENT... MAYBE SHE'LL IMPROVE NOW!

Lance Winslow's eyes met mine, and I felt as if I'd been hit over the head with my own typewriter!

HEAVENS, BUT HE'S HANDSOME! SOUNDS NICE, TOO.. HEY, NOW, MARA, LET'S KEEP OUR MIND ON THE BUSINESS AT HAND, SHALL WE?

The Winslows' unexpected friendliness confused me and made me perversely determined to find some flaw that would make sensational copy!



It sounded a little too good to be true! I'd have to ferret out more than this for a story!





My resolve melted in the warmth of his smile!





I looked at Lance's fine sincere face and a sudden wave of shame engulfed me!

In that brief peaceful moment, I had almost forgotten what I was there for! I had to grit my teeth before starting to prod again!





Before I could think, I was in Lance's arms, answering his ardent kisses with my own!

OH, MARY DARLING, SAY IT..."I LOVE YOU!" BECAUSE I DO!

LANCE, MY DEAR!

When my head had stopped spinning, the realization of what I had done dawned upon me! In desperation, I lashed out at Lance!

REALLY, MR. WINSLOW! DID YOU SAY THE SAME THING TO YOUR MOTHER'S LAST SECRETARY, OR WAS IT THE CHAMBERMAID?

MARY, YOU MUST BE JOKING! SURELY YOU KNOW I'M NOT TRIFLING WITH YOU! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME!

LANCE WINSLOW MARRY A SECRETARY? WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOTHER WOULD SAY?

LET'S GO AND ASK HER, MY LITTLE DOUBTER! THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO FIND OUT!

IN CASE I FORGOT TO MENTION IT, MOTHER WORKED AS A NURSEMAID BEFORE SHE MARRIED DAD!

OH!

We went to tell our news to Mrs. Winslow, and as one dream began to come true for me, another one was dying...my story!

YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS, CHILDREN! I'LL BE PROUD AND HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS MY DAUGHTER, MARY!

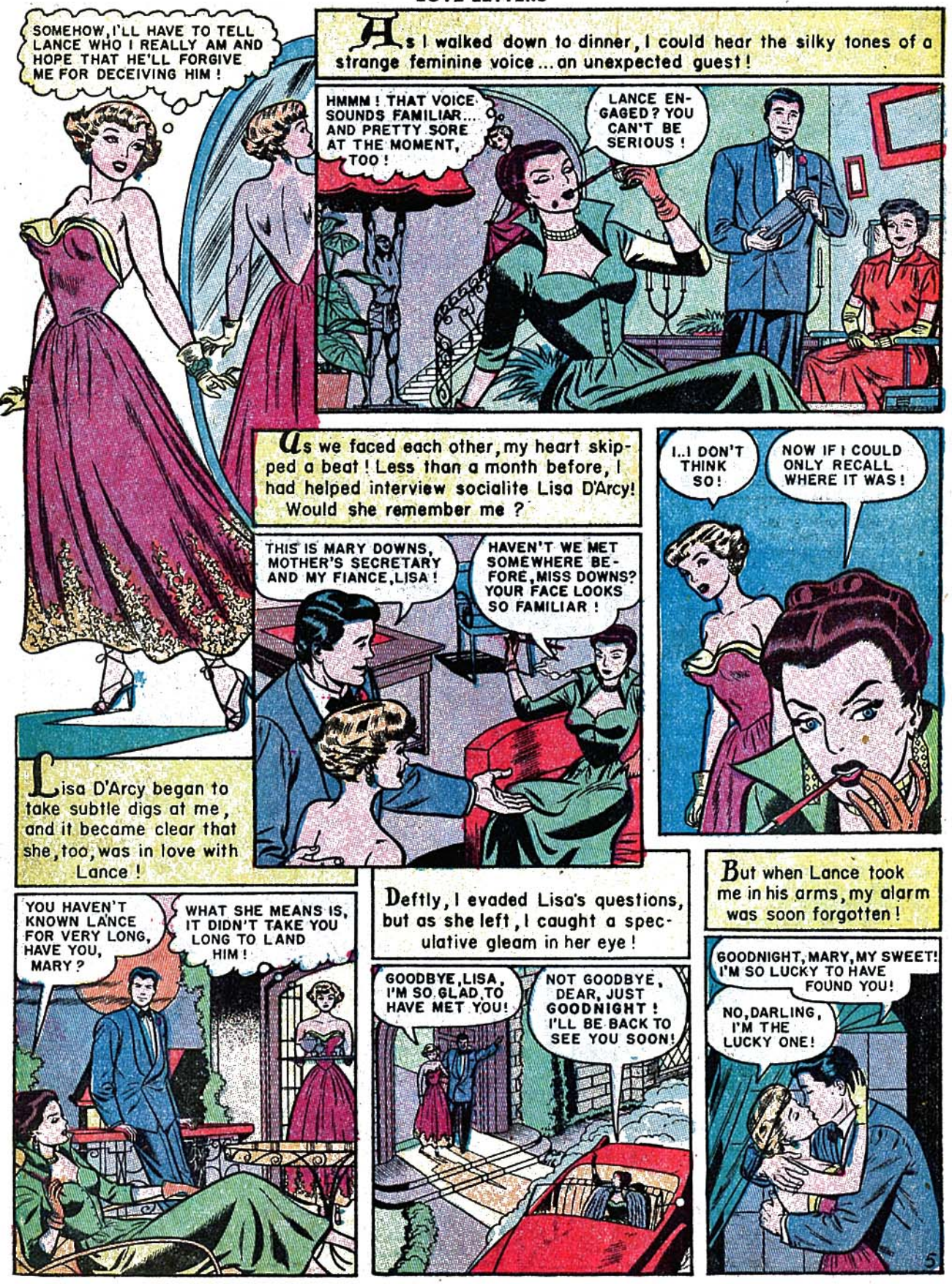
SHE'S FINE AND GOOD! TO THINK I ALMOST EXPLOITED HER IN A FRONT PAGE SCOOP!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DARLING? HAVEN'T WE CONVINCED YOU THAT WE LOVE AND WANT YOU?

OF COURSE YOU HAVE! AND I'M HAPPIER THAN I CAN SAY!

But in the solitude of my own room, my conscience assailed me!

I MUST LET THE PAPER KNOW THAT I CAN'T DO IT! I'M SO ASHAMED OF EVER HAVING PLANNED TO HURT SUCH FINE PEOPLE!


SOMEHOW, I'LL HAVE TO TELL LANCE WHO I REALLY AM AND HOPE THAT HE'LL FORGIVE ME FOR DECEIVING HIM!
As I walked down to dinner, I could hear the silky tones of a strange feminine voice... an unexpected guest!
HMMM! THAT VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR... AND PRETTY SORE AT THE MOMENT, TOO!
LANCE ENGAGED? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
As we faced each other, my heart skipped a beat! Less than a month before, I had helped interview socialite Lisa D'Arcy! Would she remember me?
I..I DON'T THINK SO!
NOW IF I COULD ONLY RECALL WHERE IT WAS!
THIS IS MARY DOWNS, MOTHER'S SECRETARY AND MY FIANCE, LISA!
HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE, MISS DOWNS? YOUR FACE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR!
Lisa D'Arcy began to take subtle digs at me, and it became clear that she, too, was in love with Lance!
YOU HAVEN'T KNOWN LANCE FOR VERY LONG, HAVE YOU, MARY?
WHAT SHE MEANS IS, IT DIDN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO LAND HIM!
Deftly, I evaded Lisa's questions, but as she left, I caught a speculative gleam in her eye!
GOODBYE, LISA, I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU!
NOT GOODBYE, DEAR, JUST GOODNIGHT! I'LL BE BACK TO SEE YOU SOON!
But when Lance took me in his arms, my alarm was soon forgotten!
GOODNIGHT, MARY, MY SWEET! I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND YOU!
NO, DARLING, I'M THE LUCKY ONE!



Then one afternoon, Lance and I returned to find Lisa waiting for us!



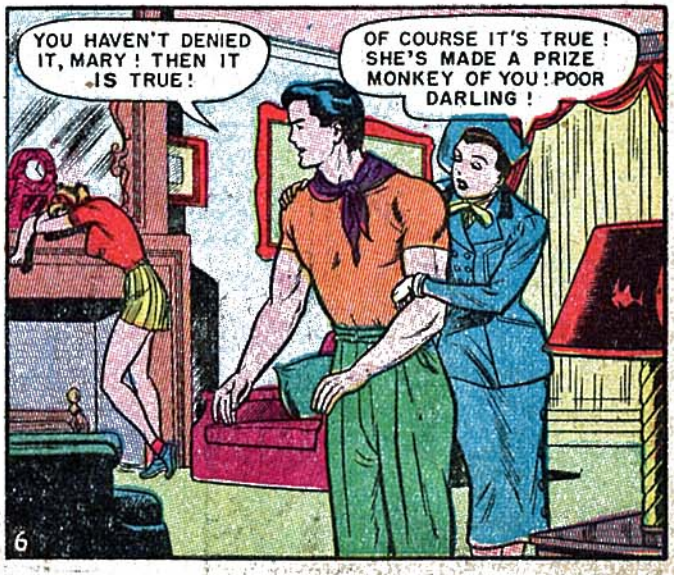
I stood frozen as she went on relentlessly!

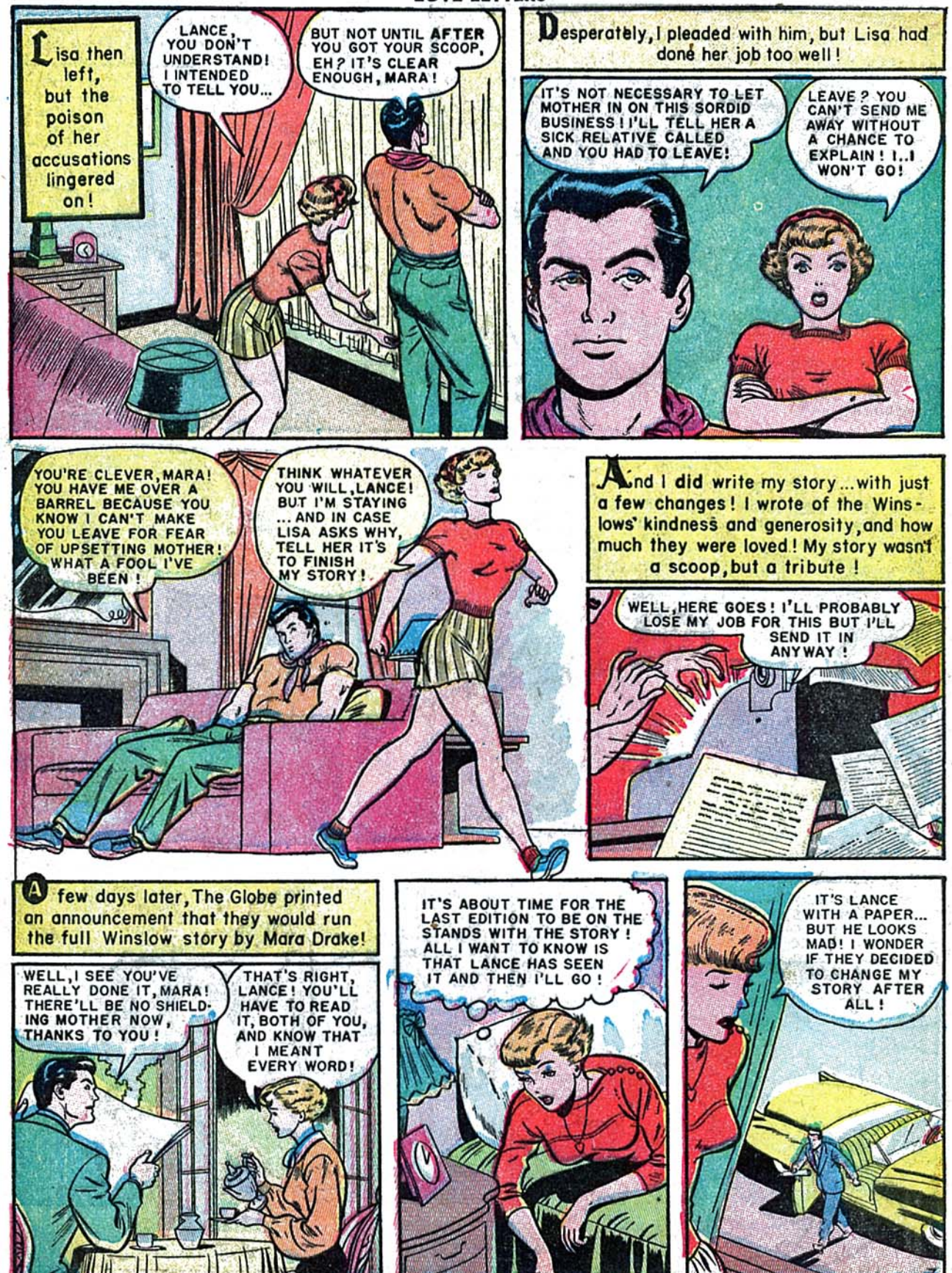











Lisa then left, but the poison of her accusations lingered on!
LANCE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I INTENDED TO TELL YOU...
BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER YOU GOT YOUR SCOOP, EH? IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH, MARA!
Desperately, I pleaded with him, but Lisa had done her job too well!
IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO LET MOTHER IN ON THIS SORDID BUSINESS! I'LL TELL HER A SICK RELATIVE CALLED AND YOU HAD TO LEAVE!
LEAVE? YOU CAN'T SEND ME AWAY WITHOUT A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN! I..I WON'T GO!
YOU'RE CLEVER, MARA! YOU HAVE ME OVER A BARREL BECAUSE YOU KNOW I CAN'T MAKE YOU LEAVE FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING MOTHER! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN!
THINK WHATEVER YOU WILL, LANCE! BUT I'M STAYING ... AND IN CASE LISA ASKS WHY, TELL HER IT'S TO FINISH MY STORY!
And I did write my story ... with just a few changes! I wrote of the Winslows' kindness and generosity, and how much they were loved! My story wasn't a scoop, but a tribute!
WELL, HERE GOES! I'LL PROBABLY LOSE MY JOB FOR THIS BUT I'LL SEND IT IN ANYWAY!
A few days later, The Globe printed an announcement that they would run the full Winslow story by Mara Drake!
WELL, I SEE YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT, MARA! THERE'LL BE NO SHIELDING MOTHER NOW, THANKS TO YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT, LANCE! YOU'LL HAVE TO READ IT, BOTH OF YOU, AND KNOW THAT I MEANT EVERY WORD!
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE LAST EDITION TO BE ON THE STANDS WITH THE STORY! ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS THAT LANCE HAS SEEN IT AND THEN I'LL GO!
IT'S LANCE WITH A PAPER... BUT HE LOOKS MAD! I WONDER IF THEY DECIDED TO CHANGE MY STORY AFTER ALL!


Suddenly, I wanted to escape... any way, anywhere!
MARA, WAIT! THIS STORY...
NO, NO MORE! JUST LET ME GO NOW! SOB
DARLING, I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
OH, LANCE, I'M SO GLAD YOU KNOW! IT'S BEEN AGONY, KEEPING THIS ALL TO MYSELF!
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL TELL MOTHER ABOUT IT! SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
OH, I DON'T, DON'T I?
I KNEW WHO SHE WAS BEFORE YOU DID! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT EMPLOYEES ARE INVESTIGATED BEFORE THEY ARE HIRED?
BUT IF YOU KNEW, WHY DID YOU LET ME COME HERE?
MY DEAR, I FELT THAT IF AFTER KNOWING US YOU'D STILL WANT TO HURT US, IT WOULD BE A GOOD LESSON FOR LANCE IN WHY NOT TO FALL IN LOVE SO EASILY!
BUT NOW, MISS DRAKE, THERE'S ANOTHER STORY YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN WRITING!
WHAT'S THAT, LANCE?
WELL, IN BIG CAPS, THE HEADLINE READS BEAUTIFUL REPORTER MARRIES LANCE WINSLOW!
SCOOP



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Going Steady





"GOING STEADY" CAN MEAN POPULARITY... BEING ON THE GO...NO LONELY NIGHTS...



But GOING STEADY INVOLVES A LOT OF PROBLEMS... IF YOU ARE TOO YOUNG, IT TAKES YOU "OUT OF CIRCULATION" AT AN AGE WHEN IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO LEARN ALL ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOYS OR GIRLS FOR A BETTER CHOICE OF A MATE...



GOING STEADY CAN MEAN PRIVILEGES AND TROUBLE... THIS COULD CERTAINLY RUIN YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD A HAPPY MARRIAGE!

GOING STEADY CAN MEAN LOVE... AND HEARTBREAK IF YOU ARE BOTH TOO YOUNG FOR FULFILLMENT OF MARRIAGE!







All IN ALL, UNLESS YOU ARE OF AGE AND IN A POSITION TO MARRY, GOING STEADY CAN DO FAR MORE HARM THAN GOOD! IT CAN ROB YOU OF THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE... IT CAN ROB YOU OF THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CHOICE OF A PROPER MATE, AND IT CAN PUT A CRIMP IN YOUR PERSONALITY BECAUSE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF IT IS STUNTED WHEN THERE IS NO COMPETITION, NO SELECTION OF ADMIRERS, NO STRIVING FOR DATES WITH DIFFERENT BOYS OR GIRLS AND NO VARIETY OF LIVING!





A RIVAL'S REVENGE

JOAN awoke from a deep sleep with the alarm clock ringing so loudly that it danced on the night table by her bed. Usually, the sound was like a buzz saw, ripping through her brain! But this morning, it was musical! For the first time, she felt alert and happy and eager to get to the Law Office where she worked!

Hurriedly, she made a pot of coffee and drank two cups while she dressed. Instead of her usual prim suit and blouse, she put on a flattering navy blue dress with suitable costume jewelry. And, instead of the severe upsweep, she let her blonde hair hang softly at the nape of her neck. She eyed the final result in the mirror.

Joan Barnett," she said to her image, "you're a dope! You know Larry's engaged to Dolores! But, just because he took you out last night, you're going to try to impress him! Well, go ahead, gal! And more power to you!"

Joan's job at the old and established firm of Gilbert, White, and Forester had been pretty dull until young Larry Forester had entered the business as a junior partner. The day he came to the office and was introduced to everyone, Joan's heart had fluttered a few times, sunk to the pit of her stomach, and left her weak and wavering! Of all the men she had ever met—and there were many—none had ever put her into such a whirl as the handsome Larry!

He was the son of the elder Lawrence J. Forester, to whom she was secretary. He was also the boy-about-town mentioned frequently in the gossip columns! Besides that, he was engaged to Dolores Rhodes, the doll of Cafe Society! So what business had she to be putting on these special flourishes for him? And she had to admit to herself that they really were for him! Why kid one's self?

As Joan borded the bus that morning, her head was still spinning with the events of the night before. Larry had needed extra help for compiling data for a brief. The elder Forester had recommended his own secretary and Joan had worked over-time from five till nine, loving every minute of it! Then Larry had taken her to dinner—not to the usual corner cafe, but to the Caper Club, one of the best places in town!

Joan entered the firm that morning with certain self-consciousness! She over-heard one girl say, "Wow! Look at that! Always thought she could be pretty if she tried!" And another said, "Hah! Must have a man on the string!"

"Young girls are too smart," Joan thought!

In her private office, she heard the news she had hoped for. "Miss Barnett," offered the older Forester, "my son needs your services again today. I'll turn you over to him and anything past five is time-and-a-half."

The time-and-a-half meant nothing! The important thing was that she would be working with Larry again. All day, she dug into the files, bringing out pieces of important information! Never a word was said about how she looked or the night before!

"Naturally," thought Joan. "After all, he's engaged to Dolores. I'm crazy in the head to think he'd look twice at me! But nobody can blame a girl for trying!"

By seven-thirty that night, Joan's dress was not as neat as when she left home. Her make-up was off, her hair was tousled! Ten and a half hours, with a few minutes off for lunch, can do that to a girl! But she was still plodding along when Dolores swooshed into the office! Dolores Rhodes was some one Joan had read about! She entered Larry's office in a flurry of lace and flowers and veils and furs! Her arms went around Larry's neck!

"Darling," she whimpered, "you've neglected me! Don't you remember that we have a date tonight at the De Vere's?"

"I'm sorry, honey," Larry replied. "It completely slipped my mind. But I have work to get out and I simply can't make it!"

"By the way," he added, "meet my dad's secretary, Joan Barnett!"

"Nice!" and Dolores looked patronizingly at Joan. "But don't let the HELP go to your head, dear! See you at the De Veres later!"

Joan seethed but said nothing. Larry kissed Dolores and sent her on her way to the party. Inwardly, Joan hated herself for even giving Larry Forester a kind thought! She hated everybody until—Dolores was gone and Larry turned to her with kind eyes.

"You probably think I'm a heel! You know I could go with her to that party, if I wanted to! But I don't! I don't like the De Veres! I don't want to go to the Caper Club, either! I'd like to have dinner at a quiet Italian Restaurant I know, if you'll go with me!"

They sat in a booth for dinner and there weren't many people around. The food was fixed to Larry's special order. And, over coffee, he held her hand.

"Joan," he said finally, "I don't know whether you'll understand this. But I'm tired of pretense! I'm a little crazy, too—about you!" And he leaned across the table and kissed her!

"Wh-what about Dolores?" Joan asked.

"I don't know! I'll take care of that in my own way! Tonight—" and Larry leaned across the table and kissed her again! "Tonight, it's just us!" He looked a little sad and she wondered what the outcome would be!

There were many wonderful nights that followed and being with Larry was happiness for Joan but there was the problem of where it would lead her or where it would end!

One night, Larry told her, "Darling, I have to go away on business for my dad. While I'm gone, I'm going to settle everything! Your worries will soon be over!"

Was it heartening? She loved Larry! But there was Dolores and her own conscience! She told herself, "All's fair in love and I'm willing to fight! But what if I lose?"

Larry had been away for five days when a letter arrived. The address was typed. The letter was in long hand. It read:

My Dearest,

I hate to do this to you but we must settle things once and for all. I believe this to be the best way. You surely know by now that we live in two worlds and that those worlds will not meet. I never meant to hurt you and, if I have, forgive me. My greatest wish is that you will find someone who will make you happier than I could ever have hoped to do.

My love, in its way,
Larry

Joan read the letter a dozen times! She remembered that Larry had promised to settle things! Without doubt, all was settled! She had lost and, that night, she cried herself to sleep!

The next morning, the alarm went through her like a buzz saw! She dressed hurriedly and went to the office, her eyes swollen and her heart like lead! For sentimental reasons, she put on the navy dress and costume jewelry she had worn on a happy morning not too far past and she let her hair hang in golden ringlets on her shoulders. She took the bus and faced the grim future at Gilbert, White, and Forester!

But, as she entered the office, Larry rushed out to meet her!

"I thought you'd never get here, honey," he said. "I came in by plane this morning!"

"Don't make it any worse than it is," she answered. "It was swell—so forget it!"

Larry grabbed her! "What are you talking about? I love you, don't you know it? Don't give me double-talk!"

"Then don't double-cross me!" And Joan pulled the letter from her purse and handed it to Larry. He looked at it, first puzzled, then with fury, and walked into his office!

It was only a few minutes later that the elder Forester came to her desk, smiling. "My son has some special work today, Miss Barnett! I've told him you'll help!"

"Very well, if I must!" answered Joan, as she started toward Larry's office!

Just inside, she was grabbed by strong arms and thoroughly kissed, and then Larry explained. The letter she had shown him was the one he had sent to Dolores—and, jealous, Dolores had typed an envelope and sent it on to Joan!

"You're all I want, darling," he assured her, as he took her in his arms. "Please believe me!"

And, after the kiss, she did!

* * *

The alarm clock buzzed on the table beside Joan's bed! She looked at it and grinned! Then she got up and threw on her robe and went to the kitchen to fix coffee and toast! That's all Larry liked for breakfast!

It was wonderful not to have to go to work at nine for Gilbert, White, and Forester! But it was heavenly to be Larry Forester's wife!

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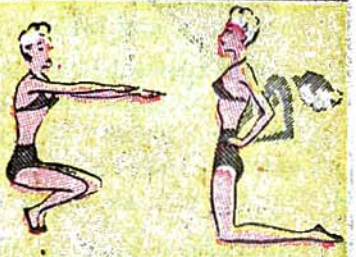


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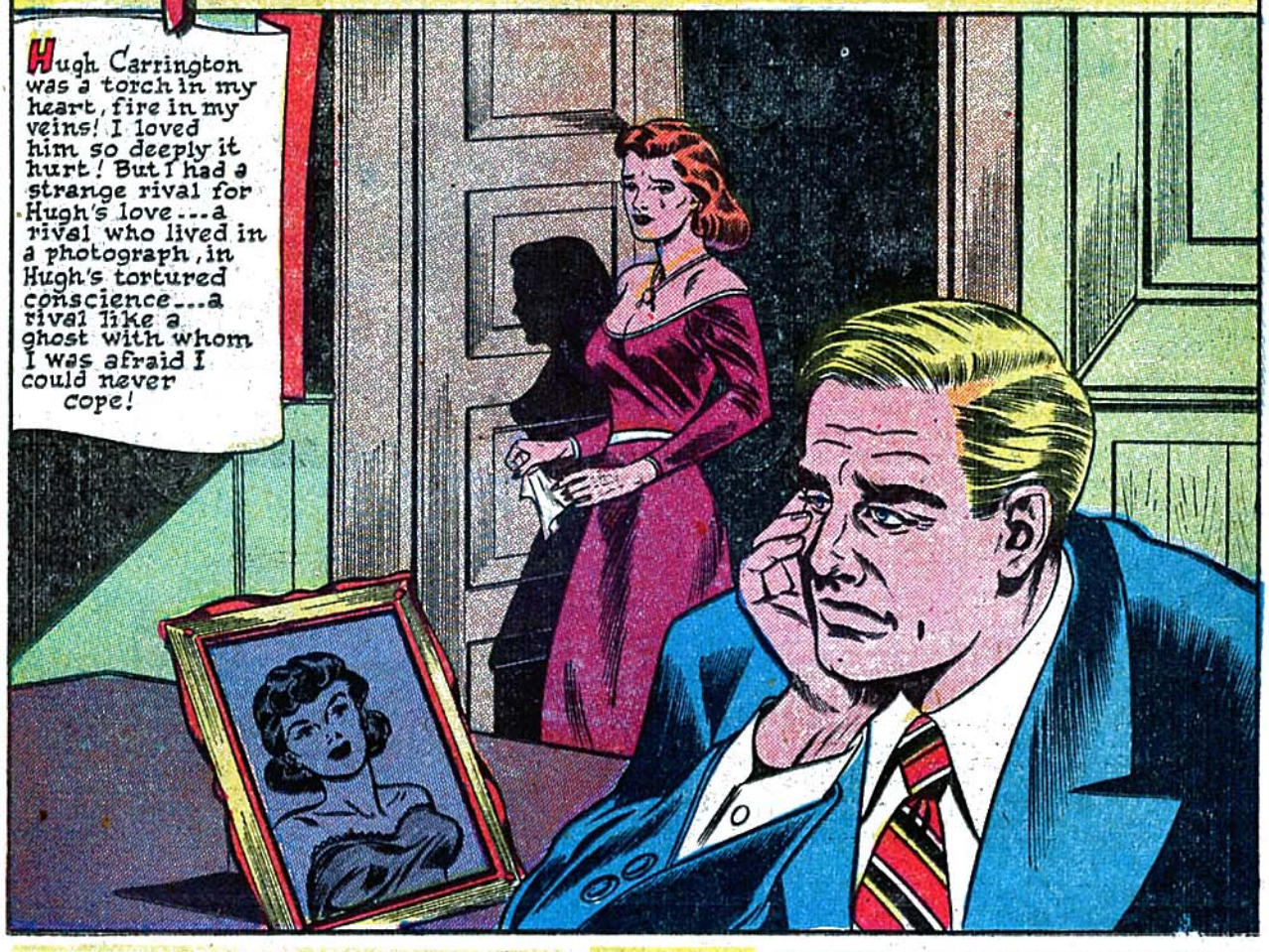
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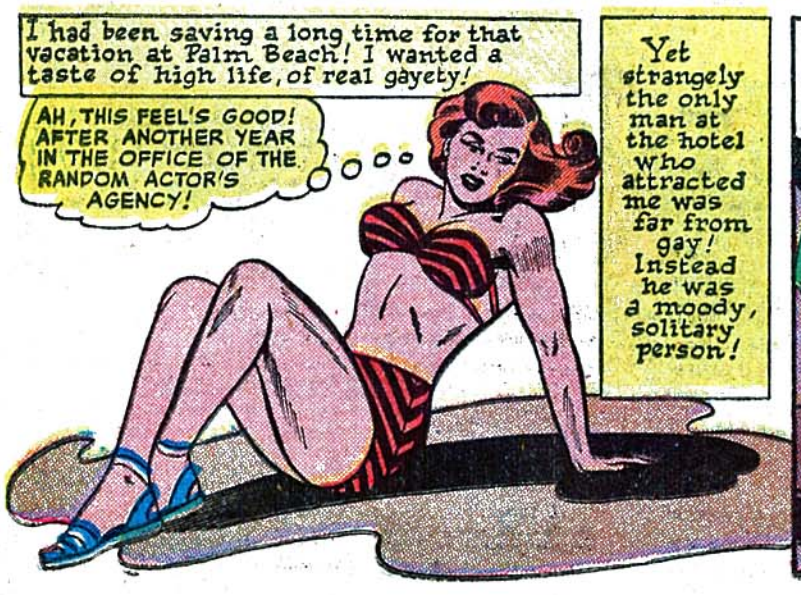
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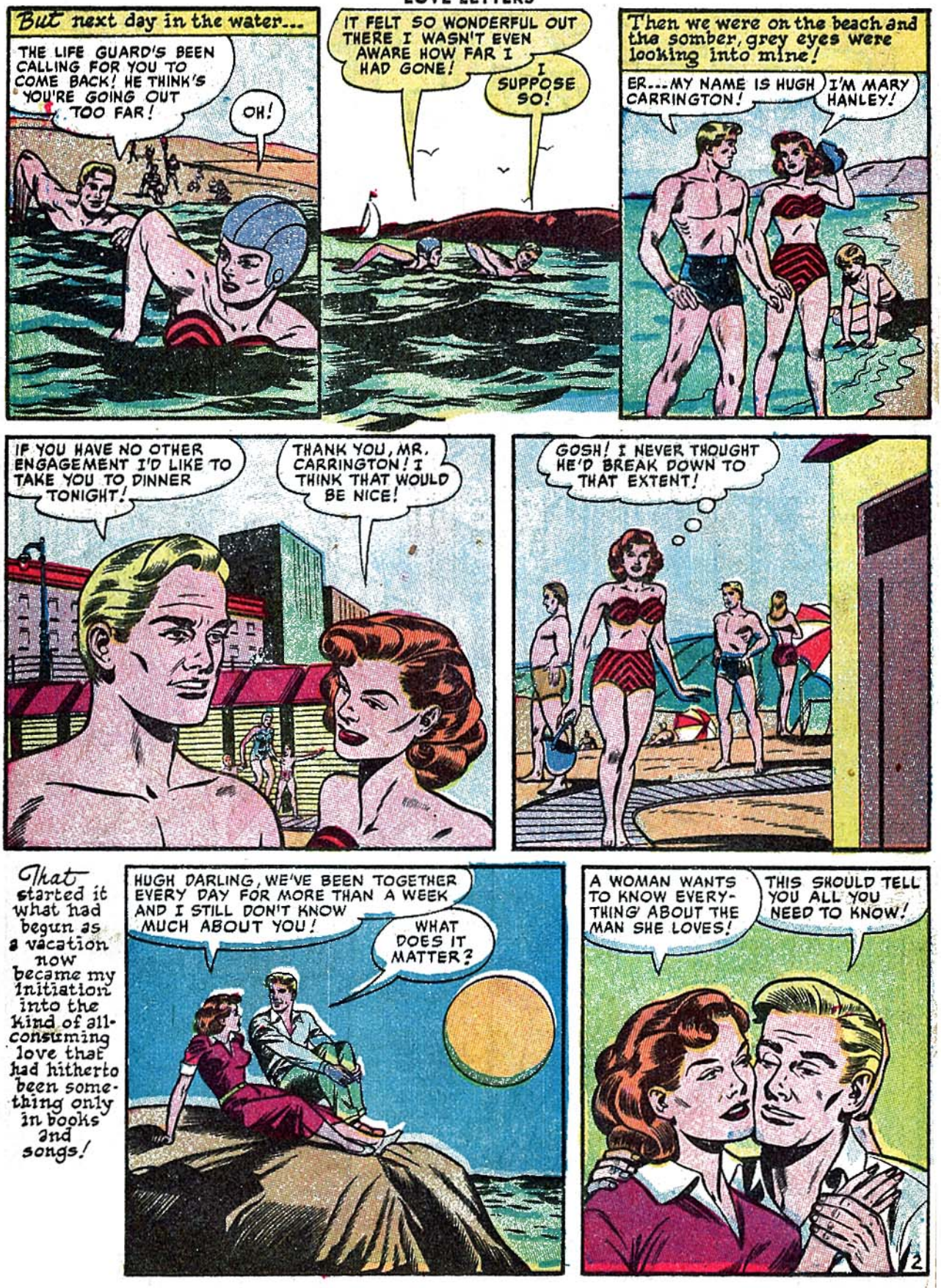
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But next day in the water...
THE LIFE GUARD'S BEEN CALLING FOR YOU TO COME BACK! HE THINK'S YOU'RE GOING OUT TOO FAR!
OH!
IT FELT SO WONDERFUL OUT THERE I WASN'T EVEN AWARE HOW FAR I HAD GONE!
I SUPPOSE SO!
Then we were on the beach and the somber, grey eyes were looking into mine!
ER...MY NAME IS HUGH CARRINGTON!
I'M MARY HANLEY!
IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER ENGAGEMENT I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER TONIGHT!
THANK YOU, MR. CARRINGTON! I THINK THAT WOULD BE NICE!
GOSH! I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BREAK DOWN TO THAT EXTENT!
That started it what had begun as a vacation now became my initiation into the kind of all-consuming love that had hitherto been something only in books and songs!
HUGH DARLING, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EVERY DAY FOR MORE THAN A WEEK AND I STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
A WOMAN WANTS TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MAN SHE LOVES!
THIS SHOULD TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!
2

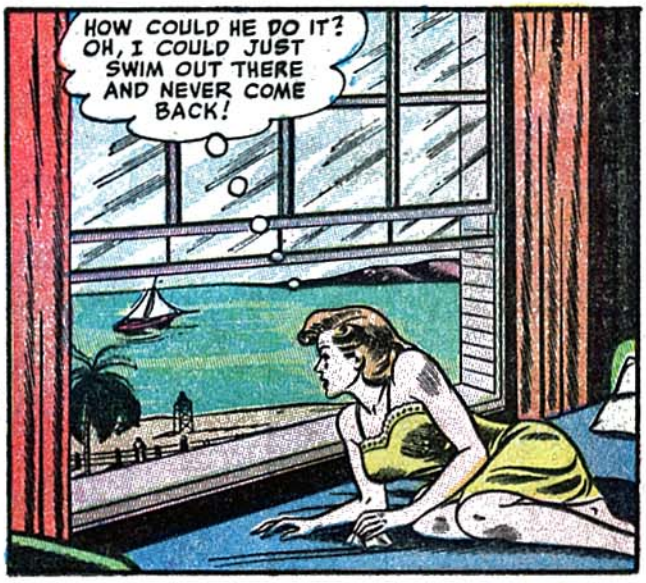








That must have been the most agonizing day of my life! The sea, which had seemed so lovely from my window now beckoned to me ominously!





Weeks dragged by, weeks that threatened to extinguish even that faint spark! And then one day there was a letter on my desk!



But as I began to read the letter, my hand trembled, my heart pounded violently---

Dearest Mary!
I was a fool to think I could shut you out of my heart by running away. Even though I still do not feel entitled to happiness, I want you to know that each day away from you has only made me realize more fully how much I love you.
Hopelessly,
Hugh

IT'S FANTASTIC! HE LOVES ME ENOUGH TO FEEL HE MUST WRITE THIS LETTER! YET HE INTENDS TO DO NOTHING ABOUT BRINGING US TOGETHER!

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS THAT'S KEEPING HUGH AWAY FROM ME!

PRIVAT

I took time off from my job and drove up to Glen Acres! It was a fabulous estate with a big house overlooking the river!

THIS IS HUGH'S! GOOD HEAVENS! I NEVER GAVE IT ANY THOUGHT BUT HE MUST BE VERY WEALTHY!

A servant showed me into the library and there was Hugh!

MARY! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME!

WHY NOT, HUGH? I LOVE YOU, YOU LOVE ME! DO I NEED A BETTER REASON?

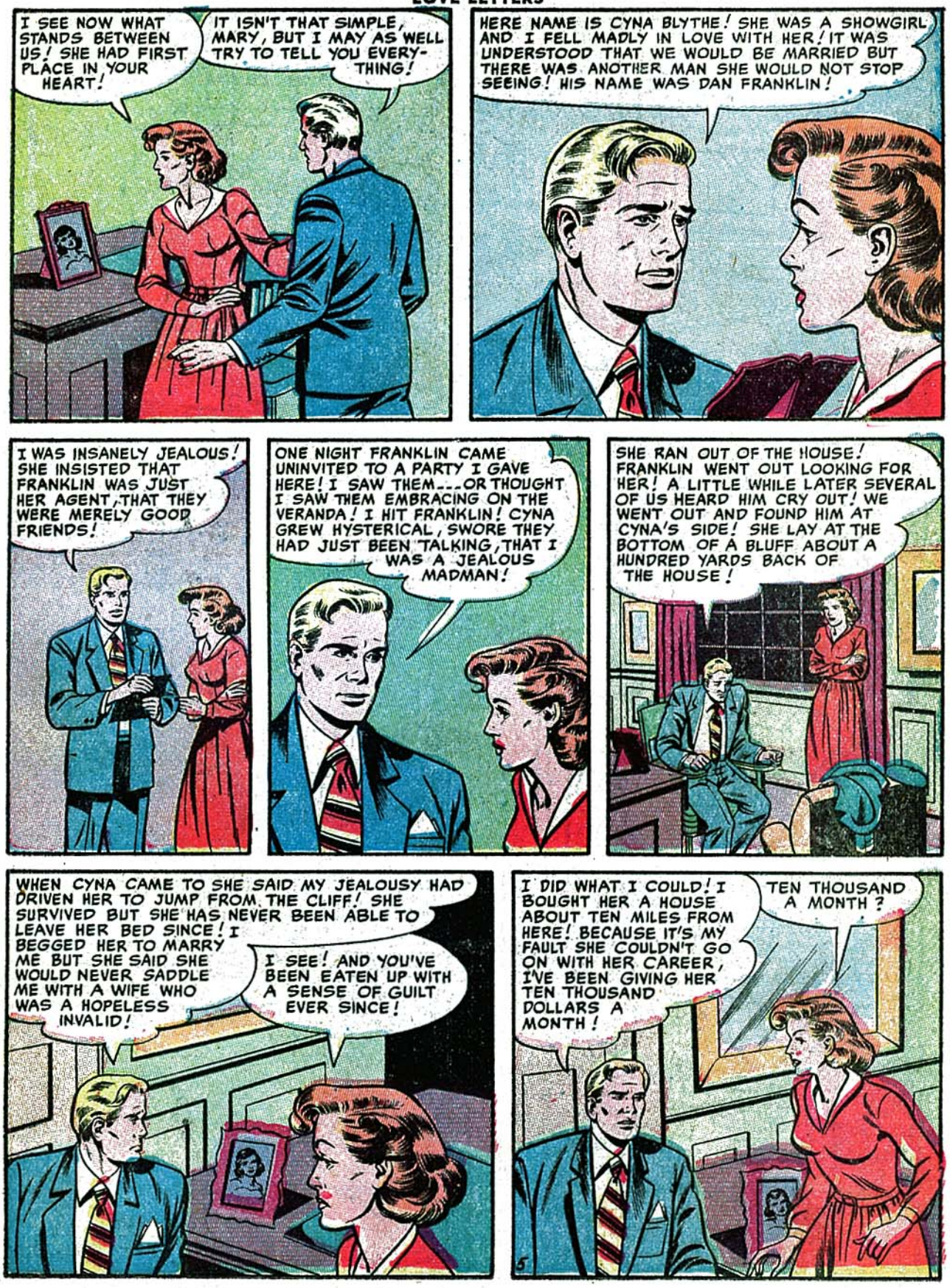
Even as he spoke Hugh was taking me into his arms! as if some part of him couldn't help doing it!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MARY--- DARLING!

JUST HOLD ME CLOSE, HUGH! DON'T SAY ANYTHING FOR A MINUTE!

And then I saw it...a photograph on the table! A photograph of a breathtakingly lovely woman!

HUGH---THAT PICTURE!


I SEE NOW WHAT STANDS BETWEEN US! SHE HAD FIRST PLACE IN YOUR HEART!
IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE, MARY, BUT I MAY AS WELL TRY TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
HERE NAME IS CYNA BLYTHE! SHE WAS A SHOWGIRL AND I FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH HER! IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WOULD BE MARRIED BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER MAN SHE WOULD NOT STOP SEEING! HIS NAME WAS DAN FRANKLIN!
I WAS INSANELY JEALOUS! SHE INSISTED THAT FRANKLIN WAS JUST HER AGENT, THAT THEY WERE MERELY GOOD FRIENDS!
ONE NIGHT FRANKLIN CAME UNINVITED TO A PARTY I GAVE HERE! I SAW THEM---OR THOUGHT I SAW THEM EMBRACING ON THE VERANDA! I HIT FRANKLIN! CYNA GREW HYSTERICAL, SWORE THEY HAD JUST BEEN TALKING, THAT I WAS A JEALOUS MADMAN!
SHE RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE! FRANKLIN WENT OUT LOOKING FOR HER! A LITTLE WHILE LATER SEVERAL OF US HEARD HIM CRY OUT! WE WENT OUT AND FOUND HIM AT CYNA'S SIDE! SHE LAY AT THE BOTTOM OF A BLUFF ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS BACK OF THE HOUSE!
WHEN CYNA CAME TO SHE SAID MY JEALOUSY HAD DRIVEN HER TO JUMP FROM THE CLIFF! SHE SURVIVED BUT SHE HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE HER BED SINCE! I BEGGED HER TO MARRY ME BUT SHE SAID SHE WOULD NEVER SADDLE ME WITH A WIFE WHO WAS A HOPELESS INVALID!
I SEE! AND YOU'VE BEEN EATEN UP WITH A SENSE OF GUILT EVER SINCE!
I DID WHAT I COULD! I BOUGHT HER A HOUSE ABOUT TEN MILES FROM HERE! BECAUSE IT'S MY FAULT SHE COULDN'T GO ON WITH HER CAREER, I'VE BEEN GIVING HER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS A MONTH!
TEN THOUSAND A MONTH?





But try as I might I could not make Hugh see it my way! After a while I was able to persuade him that we should go on seeing each other...but it was obvious that complete happiness, marriage, was not to be our lot!

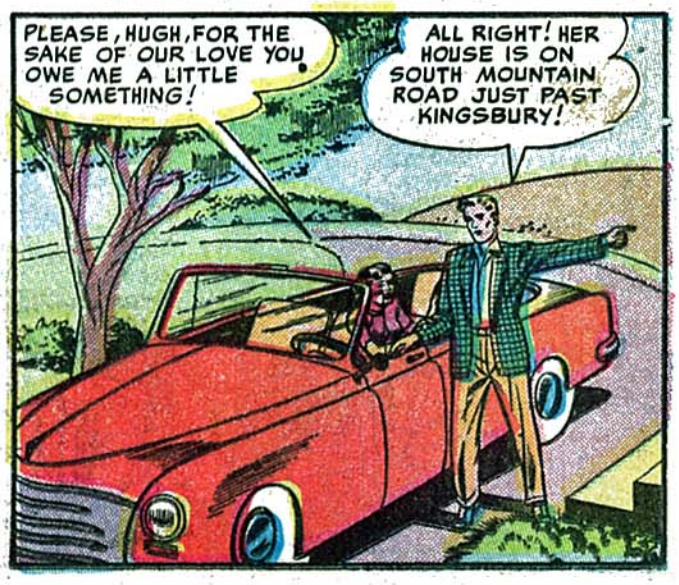




I began to feel better as I poured forth my tale! J.C. Hogan was one of those rare bosses, an understanding man!



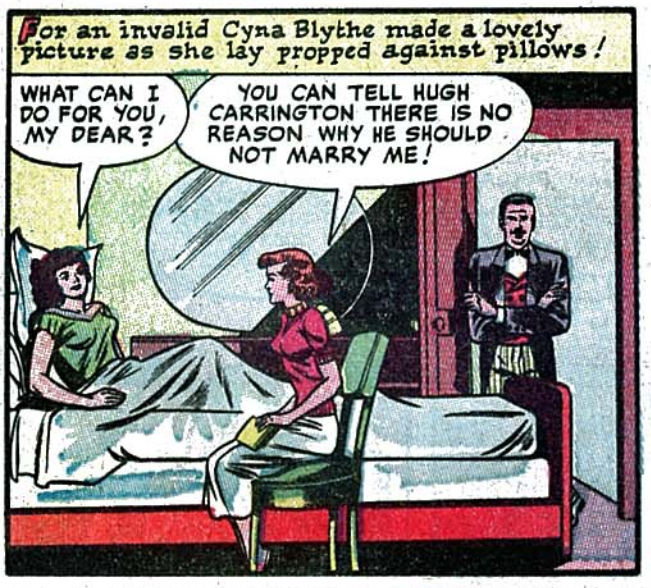














Cyna Blythe's eyes blazed and my heart leaped with excitement as she threw aside the covers and sprang from the bed!







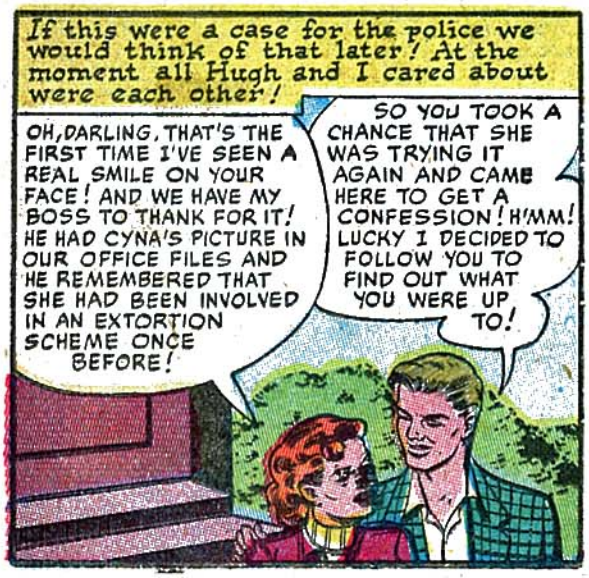
As he spoke, the butler kept twisting my arms until the pain became unbearable! Bells seemed to be ringing in my ears! and then through the sound I could hear footsteps on the stairs! Suddenly Hugh stood facing me...



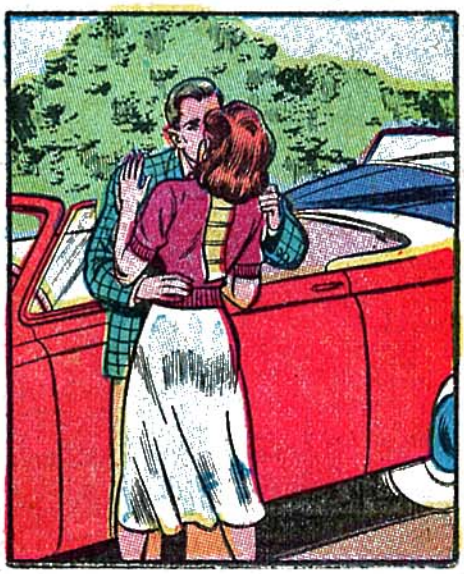








In Hugh's arms I knew that all the pain, all the heartache, all the doubts had not been in vain! His love was mine now, a whole-hearted love without reservation!



WITHOUT KNOWING A NOTE—

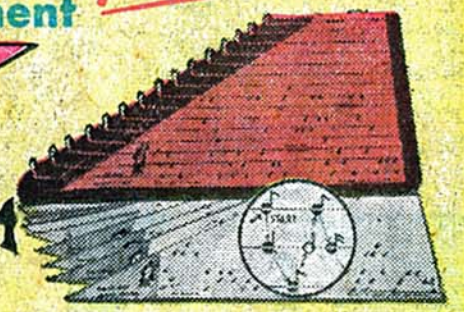
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